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*Eng. by E. G. Williams & Bre. N.Y.*

*J. H. Williams.*

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# BIOGRAPHICAL

## JOSEPH H. MILES.

Joseph H. Miles, president of the First National Bank of Falls City, president of the State Bank of Rulo, proprietor of the great Miles ranch in the vicinity of Dawson and the owner of much other land in this county, for years regarded as one of the leading bankers and stockmen in Nebraska, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of Nebraska and of Richardson county since 1862, and spent his boyhood days in this county on the great ranges of the early days, having thus been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days. Mr. Miles was born at Delta, in York county, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1850, and is a son of the late Stephen Boyd and Hannah (Scarborough) Miles, the former a native of that same county, and the latter a native of the state of Maryland. Extended mention is made of Stephen Boyd Miles elsewhere in this work.

Joseph H. Miles was reared on the Miles ranch and from boyhood was accustomed to the free life of the range. During the Civil War period he was in attendance at St. Benedict's College at Atchison, Kansas, and in 1865 pursued his studies in Highland University, later (1866-1868) attending the school at Peru, Nebraska, in the neighboring county of Nemaha, which school was raised to the rank of a normal school in 1867. Upon the completion of his education he returned to the home ranch and was there actively engaged with his father in the cattle business until 1872, when he went to St. Louis and perfected himself as a telegraph operator, a vocation in which he then engaged, finally becoming a train dispatcher, and was continually engaged in railroad service until 1880. He then embarked in the mercantile business in Rulo, this county, where he married in 1882. Two years later, in 1884, he became engaged in connection with his mercantile business, in the banking business at Rulo in association with his father. In 1888 he sold his store and devoted his attention to the bank and his live-stock interests on the ranch and was thus occupied until 1890. In that year he went back



with his father to his birthplace at Delta, Pennsylvania, and they organized the Miles National Bank of Delta. In 1891 he became cashier of the First National Bank of Falls City, with which institution he has been connected, as a member of the board of directors, from the time his father, Stephen Boyd Miles, established the bank in 1882, and was elected president of this bank in 1903. He is also interested in the State Bank of Rulo and in addition to his banking interests continues to give much of his personal attention to his extensive land interests. He operates the original Miles ranch of six thousand acres in the neighborhood of Dawson; besides which he owns other valuable tracts in Salem, Speiser, Nemaha and Grant townships, a total of about ten thousand acres in all, his sons, Stephen B. and Warren C., assisting him in the management of his various land holdings.

After the death of his father in 1898, Mr. Miles was made executor of the large estate left by the old banker and ranchman and considerable time was consumed in finally and definitely closing the trust. A vast amount of litigation ensued as a result of relatives and heirs-at-law starting a contest to break the will left by Stephen Boyd Miles, which provided for the disposition of an estate valued at over one million dollars. Attracted by the possibilities of rich fees, lawyers from St. Louis, Omaha, Lincoln, Kansas City and Falls City, took part in the effort to break the will, being actuated by a desire to win a contingent fee of forty per cent. of the amount secured if they succeeded in breaking the will. The celebrated Miles will contest was begun in 1899 and occupied a period of twelve years. A host of lawyers took part in the contest only to meet with disappointment in the final outcome. The case was brought up in the supreme court of Nebraska five times and was finally disposed of in 1911, the validity of the will made by Stephen Boyd Miles being upheld in the final decision given in favor of Joseph H. Miles and other beneficiaries whom the father recognized in his will.

Mr. Miles has ever taken a warm interest in the growth and development of his home town and county, and among his numerous acts of public spirit was his presentation to the city of the ground occupied by the public library of Falls City. He is a Democrat, as was his father, and has for years taken an active and influential interest in county and state politics. He has been interested in county politics to the extent of assisting his friends to election to public office, an assistance which has always been given whole heartedly and without stint. He attended the Democratic national convention which nominated William Jennings Bryan for the presidency in Chicago in 1896, and was also a delegate to the succeeding convention of his party held at Kansas City in 1900. To local civic affairs Mr. Miles has been equally attentive and has served two terms a mayor of Falls City, occupying the



executive chair in 1893 and again in 1897. Fraternally, Mr. Miles is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Royal Highlanders, the Improved Order of Red Men, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He became affiliated with the Knights of Pythias in 1875 and is a member of the grand lodge of that order for the state of Missouri.

On January 31, 1882, at Rulo, Mr. Miles was married to Sue A. Easley, who was born at Rulo, this county, a daughter of Drury T. and Mary (Thomas) Easley, natives of Virginia and pioneers of this county, the father of Mary (Thomas) Easley having been one of the early Baptist ministers at Rulo. To this union six children have been born, namely: Mrs. Mabel Meyer, of Los Angeles, California; Stephen B., of Falls City, who is managing the Miles ranch; Joseph T., who died in 1912; Warren C., who is living on a section of the Miles land in Nemaha township; Edna, who is at home with her parents, and Mrs. Sue Adele Dulin, of Los Angeles.

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#### HENRY W. SHUBERT.

Among the early pioneers of the northern part of Richardson county few, if any, are held in better remembrance than is the late Henry W. Shubert, who was one of the first settlers in that part of this county and on whose land the town of Shubert was laid out when the railroad was surveyed through that section. He not only was one of the first settlers in northern Richardson county, but he became one of the substantial farmers and stockmen thereabout and an extensive landowner, owning lands in this county and in the neighboring county of Nemaha. He was the pioneer orchardist of Richardson county and set out the first commercial fruit orchard in the state of Nebraska. He built up a fine homestead place in the Shubert neighborhood and his children and grandchildren are worthily carrying on the work he started so admirably here back in pioneer days.

Henry W. Shubert was a Kentuckian, born in Bath county in the old Blue Grass state, June 2, 1834, son of John and Rebecca (Shrout) Shubert, also natives of Kentucky, the former born in 1806 and the latter in 1810. John Shubert was the son of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Meyer) Shubert, natives of Germany, the former born in 1780 and the latter in 1785, who were pioneers in Kentucky and whose last days were spent in Mason county, Illinois, the latter dying there in 1860 and the former in 1870. There were four brothers who came from Germany about the same period, of whom John

Shubert was one. Louis Shubert was another who was the ancestor of the Shuberts of theatrical fame. John Shubert was trained as an iron moulder in his youth and worked at the trade for a number of years. He was married in 1828 and in 1835 built a flatboat at the headwaters of the Licking river in Kentucky and with his family and household goods floated down that stream into the Ohio and thence to the landing at Madison, Indiana, where he disembarked and then pushed on eighteen miles into the wilderness, where he hewed out a home in the woods, started a farm and presently also started a country store. There he remained until 1843, when he disposed of his interests there and moved by covered wagon over into Illinois, where he settled on a farm in Macon county, remaining there until 1873, when he and his wife joined their sons, who had meanwhile settled in Nebraska, and spent their last days on a farm in the neighborhood of Shubert, in this county, John Shubert dying there in 1879 and his widow in 1883. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom nine grew to maturity, those besides the subject of this memorial sketch being as follow: Rachel, widow of T. Harmon, of this county; Elizabeth, wife of George Vanlandingham, of the neighboring county of Nemaha; Mrs. Mary A. Vanlandingham, deceased; Eliza Jane, who died at the age of eighteen years; James M., who became a substantial pioneer farmer of this county and who met a tragic death in March, 1882, by being thrown from a wagon when his team of horses ran away in the vicinity of Brownville; John W., who also became a pioneer of this county and who is now living retired at Spokane, Washington; William M., another Richardson county pioneer, now living retired at Shubert, and Rebecca, also living at Shubert, wife of Charles Pond, a veteran of the Civil War and one of the pioneers of this county.

Henry W. Shubert was but a babe in arms when his parents moved down the river, changing their place of residence from Kentucky to Indiana, and he was but nine years of age when they moved from the latter state over into Illinois and settled on a farm in Macon county, where he grew to manhood. He had little schooling when a boy. He helped to build the first school house in the neighborhood of his home and was a good student, becoming a very well-informed man through wide reading and much study at home. From 1856 to 1860 he operated a grain separator and corn-sheller in connection with his general farming. In the meantime, in the spring of 1858, he married and in 1865, attracted by the possibilities then opening to settlers in the then Territory of Nebraska, came out here and bought the northeast quarter of section 5 in the precinct of Barada, in Richardson county, that tract then being a part of the Half-breed Reservation, paying two dollars and fifty cents



an acre for the same. The next year he put out a crop on that place, but range cattle ate the crop and he then spent the next year splitting rails with which to fence the place. In the meantime he had taken up additional land, over the line in Nemaha county and on this latter tract had erected a log cabin in preparation for the removal of his family to the new home in the wilderness. He then returned to Illinois and settling up his affairs there returned here with his family and established his home in this state, where he spent the remainder of his life, one of the active and influential pioneers of the northern part of Richardson county. When the Burlington railroad was surveyed through this county a station was located on Mr. Shubert's land and was given his name, which it still bears, the thriving village of Shubert having grown up there. As he prospered in his farming and stock-raising operations Mr. Shubert added to his holdings until he became the owner of seven hundred acres of fine land and was accounted one of the most substantial residents of that part of the county. He brought his father and mother out here in 1873 and gave them forty acres, on which they spent their last days. His brothers also became well established and the Shubert family thus came to have a most important part in the development of that region.

In 1884 Henry W. Shubert became associated with the Lincoln Land Company and in that connection did much valuable development work hereabout. On his home place he set out extensive fruit orchards and was the pioneer orchardist of Nebraska and was the first apple grower to use a spraying machine and also the first grower to pack apples in barrels for shipment. Mr. Shubert's career was not always favored with successes, however, as he had many vicissitudes during his active life in this county. During 1886 he suffered the loss of practically all of his hogs and cattle because of hydrophobia contracted from a shepherd dog, which was afflicted with the dread disease. In later years he lost a considerable fortune because of a bank failure wherein he had served as bondsman for the bank officers.

This noted pioneer gave away to his children practically all of his estate, when old age crept upon him, and was widely known for his great liberality to his friends and acquaintances. He was known never to have forced a collection in instances where he had loaned money or given assistance to his neighbors in time of need. He took a pride in assisting new comers to his neighbors in gaining a foothold and many settlers have cause to bless his kindness of heart and generosity. For a period of thirty-five years prior to his death, Henry W. Shubert suffered from an incurable cancer, but uncomplainingly and smilingly pursued his way and did the things which he deemed were just and right in the eyes of the world. He was a member of

the Christian church, a Free Mason, and a Republican in politics, ever taking a warm interest in church, lodge and political affairs, as became a man of position and standing. He died at his home in this county on April 19, 1909.

Henry W. Shubert was twice married. On May 7, 1858, in Illinois he was united in marriage to Mary Griffin and to that union seven children were born, namely: John D., of Shubert; M. Fannie, wife of E. F. Burson, of Shubert; M. Etta, wife of J. L. Speece, of Falls City; Arthur M., a farmer and orchardist, of Shubert; J. Franklin Shubert, banker and orchardist, of Shubert; Henry Walter, a merchant of Ottawa, Kansas; Austin Grant, a well-known real estate dealer and farmer of Falls City. The mother of these children died suddenly while riding in a carriage on the highway between her home and that of J. P. King, on New Years Day, 1881, her last born child, Austin Grant, less than two years of age, being held in her arms at that time. In 1883, Mr. Shubert married, secondly, Mary Skeen, daughter of Squire A. D. Skeen, one of the pioneers of Nebraska and a former resident of Nebraska City, and to that union was born one son, Leon Willard, whose mother died on January 1, 1917.

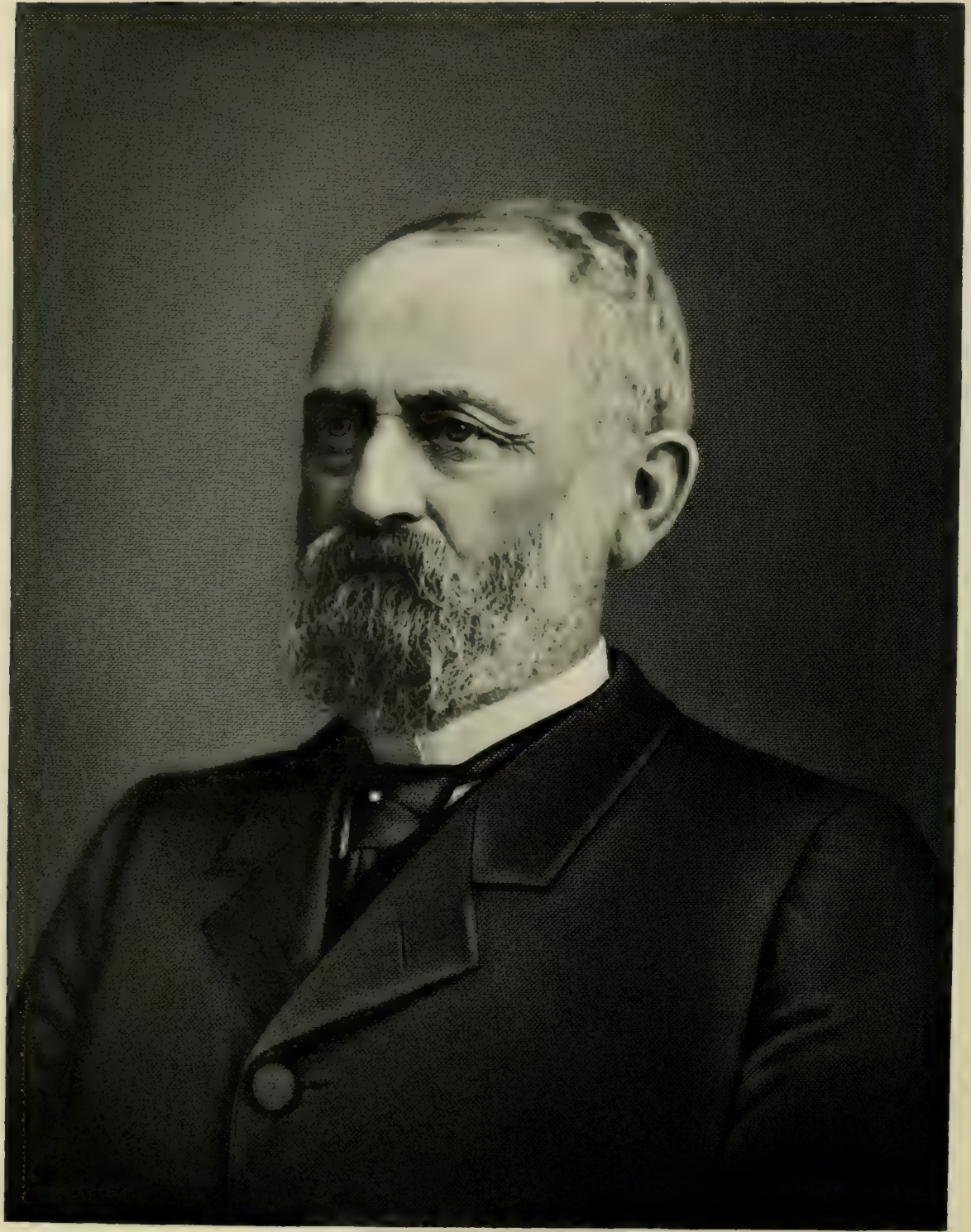
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#### HON. ISHAM REAVIS.

It has been given to but few men to have left behind them an imperishable record such as that of the late Judge Isham Reavis, who was one of the pioneers of Falls City, a jurist of exceptional ability and renown; a lawyer of profound learning, a pleader of exceptional force, and a strong man who lived and carved out a career during an age when strong and sturdy characters were necessary to create a state. Judge Reavis was a member of the first Legislative assembly of the new state of Nebraska and distinguished himself and reflected credit upon his constituency by his able service in behalf of his adopted state; and further distinguished himself as an associate justice of the supreme court of the Territory of Arizona. As a practitioner in the courts of Nebraska and in the supreme court of the nation; he was for years a prominent figure in legal circles; being a man of exceptional learning, he was likewise endowed with literary ability of a very high order and, had he so chosen, could have gained renown as a writer and essayist. While a versatile individual and blessed with superior mental endowment which caused those who knew him best to class him as a genius, Judge Reavis attained high rank as an attorney and jurist; he was for many years the dean of the Richardson county bar, and was universally recognized as a

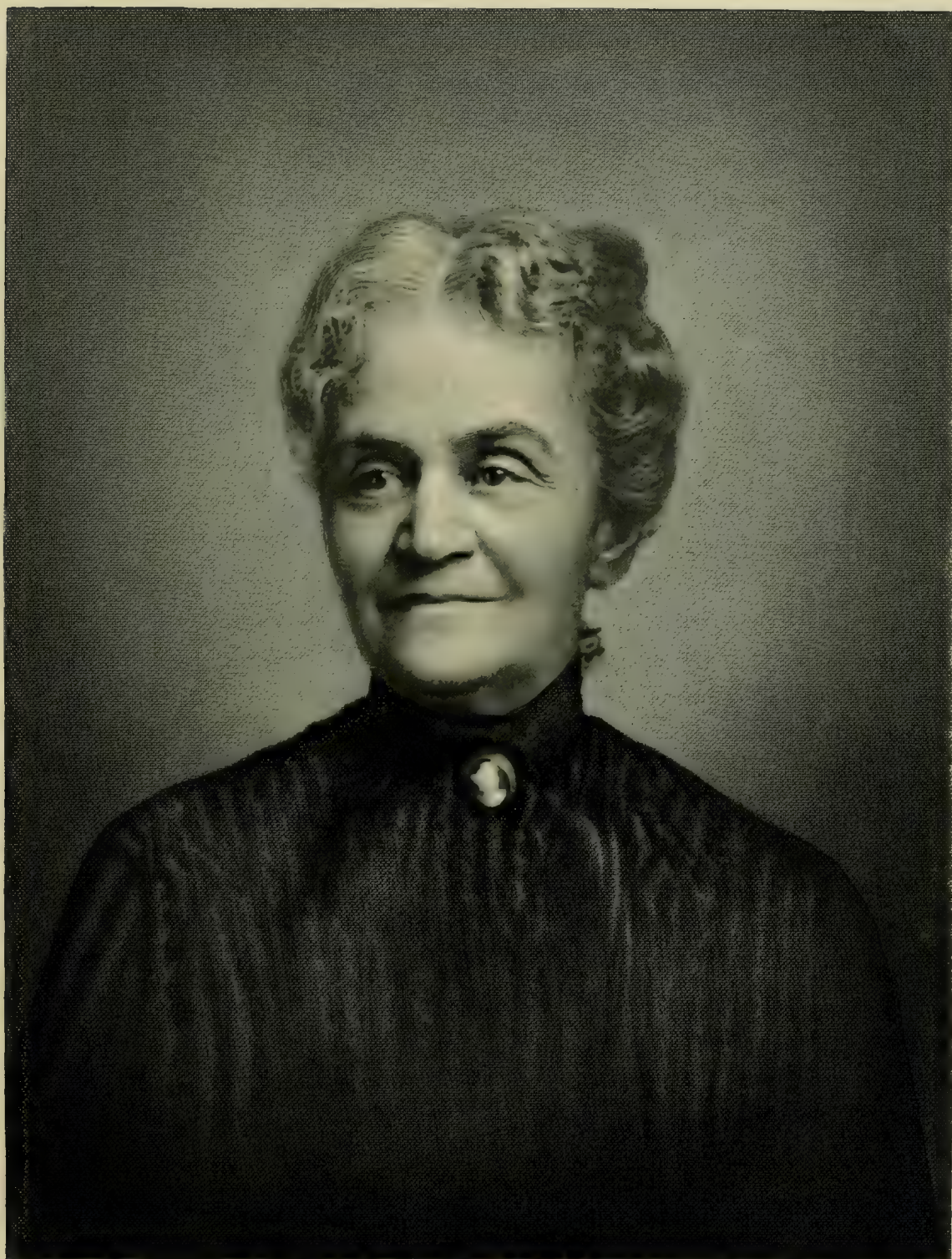






*Isham Platts*





Armie Dornington Reavis





peer among that famous group of lawyers which shed luster and fame upon Richardson county during the formative and creative period of this county's history. It is probable that in the whole state of Nebraska he had no superior as a legal light, and his high standing at the bar was maintained during a period of time extending over half a century.

Isham Reavis was born on January 28, 1836, on a farm near Beardstown, Illinois. He was the youngest son of a large family born to Isham and Mahala Reavis, both of whom were members of old Southern families, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Virginia, but reared in Kentucky, members of whose families fought in the Revolution. Judge Reavis came of the old stock of pioneers who were home builders and creators of new communities in the Middle West and Western country, so that it was entirely natural that he, himself, should decide to cast his fortunes in the newer country to the westward of his birthplace. He remained on the farm until his father's death, when he was a lad of but nine years. He attended the common schools and the Beardstown schools and was a student in Illinois College at Jacksonville until compelled to leave the college on account of his mother's death. He then returned to Beardstown and began the study of law in the office of Abraham Lincoln. Apropos of this venture, a letter from Mr. Lincoln to Isham Reavis is one of the valued relics on exhibition in the Nebraska Historical Society's exhibit. This letter is in reply to one regarding Mr. Reavis's contemplated study of law, written by Mr. Lincoln in 1855, and is full of characteristic advice given to the young man by the great emancipator. Isham Reavis applied himself diligently to the study of law until 1858, when he was admitted to the bar in Illinois. His ambitions and an inherent craving for the life of the frontier led him to the West and in May, 1858, he came to the little settlement, surrounded on all sides by open prairie, the one-year-old Falls City, and while his life's labors were centered here for fifty-six years, he watched the hamlet develop into a thriving little city in one of the richest districts of the Missouri valley. The story of the hardships and privations of those early days, of the ambitions, the hopes, the disappointments, the achievements of those who laid the foundation of this later-day prosperity, are told in this volume; and through it all Isham Reavis was in the thickest of the fight and he lived to see the visions of his earlier years materialize. Nothing more fittingly describes the appearance of the frontier country of sixty years ago than the first installment of Judge Reavis's "Reminiscences of a Wayfarer," which appears in this work.

Judge Reavis immediately began the practice of law in the little prairie village and took an active and influential part in the political matters of

the day, his influence being felt in the community and state in all matters affecting the public welfare. In the year 1867 he was appointed district attorney for the first judicial district of the new state of Nebraska and served in this capacity for two years. He was elected a member of the state Senate in 1868 and served in the first state Legislature during the ensuing winter and spring. In 1867 he was elected to the post of district judge and, in 1869, he was appointed by President Grant to the position of justice of the supreme court of the territory of Arizona, which position he filled for four years, at the end of which time he resigned and again resumed his law practice at Falls City. Judge Reavis practiced in practically all the courts of Nebraska and was frequently a pleader before the United States supreme court at Washington. During his day, it is probable that no man was better known over the state than Judge Reavis and perhaps no other lawyer has figured in more remarkable or celebrated cases. The death of this esteemed pioneer citizen occurred on May 8, 1914.

At the November election of 1868, Isham Reavis was elected senator from what was then called the third senatorial district. That Senate was the first one elected in the state after the adoption of the state constitution and was composed among others of such capable man as Guy C. Barton, William F. Chapin, E. E. Cunningham, Charles H. Gore and Thomas J. Majors. The city of Lincoln at that time contained about one thousand souls and was about one third the size of Brownville. During the session of 1869 the senatorial contest between Tipton, McCann, Marquette and David Butler was the absorbing interest and passion. The great heat engendered by the contest thrust all else aside and involved the entire state. Town lots in the city of Lincoln as well as other considerations were freely offered as pay for the support of some of the candidates. It seemed that it was the desire of the powers that were to make Butler senator if possible, at any cost. He had been the successful Republican candidate for governor the fall before the meeting of the Legislature, against no less formidable a candidate offered by the Democrats, than J. Sterling Morton, and was ambitious to follow his star of destiny to greater places of honor and trust. He seemed to be the likely and logical man for the honor. He was also from Pawnee county and these many considerations were urged upon the Richardson county delegates for votes for Butler. The Richardson county men, however, were instructed by their county conventions to vote for Tipton and in spite of all temptations and contrary personal predilections, voted for and helped make Thomas W. Tipton, the first United States senator from the new state of Nebraska.

During this session of the Legislature the public lands for internal im-



provements were disposed of to assist in the building of railroads. The state was full of railroads on paper and there was not enough land in the state to pay for half of the construction necessary. To provide for the proper expenditure of this money, Mr. Reavis introduced a bill to provide for the expenditure of the money accruing from the sale of the public lands, where it would do the most and lasting good, and be of the greatest benefit to the state. Three railroads were selected, and possibly a fourth, as beneficiaries of this fund when they should comply with the prerequisites to show good faith. The Midland Pacific, now owned by the Burlington System and running from Nebraska City to Lincoln, was one of those roads; the Atchison & Nebraska railroad was another one, now owned by the Burlington and running from Atchison to Lincoln; the Burlington & Missouri River railroad was another in Nebraska, running from Plattsmouth to Ft. Kearney.

It was at this session of the Legislature that Senator Reavis introduced a bill appropriating money to the Lincoln Monument Association. This association was in process of building the monument for our martyred President in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois, and it was the desire of Mr. Reavis to have our state represented in the construction of that beautiful edifice. One of the senators from Nemaha county introduced an amendment to strike out the words "Lincoln Association" and insert "Nebraska Soldiers Association." In reply to the member's remarks introducing this amendment, Senator Reavis had this to say:

Mr. Chairman:—I regret exceedingly that the gentleman from Nemaha county has seen fit to offer this amendment. In my judgment nothing could be more ill-timed and out of place than a proposition of this character. His explanation may be satisfactory to the members on this floor who have heard it; but, sir, there are those outside of these walls who will doubt while the gentleman protests. The bill under consideration appropriates—should it become a law—one thousand dollars to aid an association of very respectable individuals, among them which are some of the states of the Union, in building a monument over the grave of Abraham Lincoln. The gentleman moves to strike out "Lincoln Association" and insert "Nebraska Soldiers' Association." The amendment, if adopted, will destroy the bill and defeat a measure that commends itself to the heart of every patriot in this broad land of ours. It will do more. If persisted in it will compel senators to discriminate between the soldiers who were slain in battle and our good old President who was murdered in Washington.

Sir, I do not want the time ever to come when I shall be compelled either as a legislator or otherwise to make such discrimination. I would rear a monument to the memory of each, tall enough to be seen over the hilltops of all the centuries. I am at a loss to know why the gentleman offers this amendment. Does he think the fallen heroes of the rebellion are in danger of being forgotten? If he does I am bound to believe he has less confidence in the people, to say nothing of the survivors of six hundred bloody battle fields of the slavery war than I had supposed him to possess. The soldiers—God

bless them—will take care of the memory of their lost comrades, whether they receive assistance from associations or legislatures or not. Monumental piles are but the physical manifestations of the love we bear the departed who sleep beneath, and shall it be said of Nebraska that she had not love enough in her young heart to place one slab in the marble edifice that is to stand like a ghostly sentinel by the side of the great patriot's grave, while time shall grow old with the ages?

For myself, I desire to appropriate money enough for the purpose mentioned in the bill, to give Nebraska—the youngest member of the federal family—a respectable position in this magnificent and praiseworthy enterprise. The gentleman need have no fears that the fallen soldiers of Nebraska will receive less attention on account of this bill. Sir, they are being attended by those that “drank from the same canteen”—by those that loved them in life—that love them in death, and who revere the lofty patriotism that impelled them to take arms in defense of the best human government that was ever made. In the court house square at my own home, stands a beautiful marble shaft. It was placed there by the members of two companies of Nebraska soldiers in memoriam of the dead of both. On its smooth surface is engraved the names of the “lost boys in blue”; when and where they died; whether killed in battle or carried away by disease; and the names of the companies at whose instance it was erected. All honor to the warm-hearted, generous citizen soldiery who did the noble deed. It is the spontaneous offering of the companies in arms whose march is ended forever and there, sir, it will stand long after this generation shall have passed away and the memory of those whose names are chiseled on its smooth surface shall have otherwise faded from the world. For these and other reasons I oppose the amendment and hope it may be withdrawn.

The amendment was withdrawn, the bill passed and the appropriation allowed to languish in the treasury until it became null and unavailable. Many years afterward, in the year 1880, Judge Reavis had occasion to visit his old home on the Sangamon river, near Springfield. He visited the Lincoln monument that had been recently completed, and having an added interest in the building by reason of his successful efforts in having Nebraska represented in the erection of it he made the cemetery a visit. The surprise that came to him when he found that the money appropriated by Nebraska in 1869 was not used or gotten from the state treasury at all is spoken of in his reminiscences, together with his immediate efforts in having the money re-appropriated and forwarded to the custodian of the immortal sepulchre for the use, benefit, beautification and maintenance of the tomb, thus finally placing Nebraska among the list of donors. A distinction which would have been lost to the honor of the state whose capital bears the immortal President's name, but for his interest and efforts in memory of the one man who lived upon this earth but to bless it, whom he really loved and worshiped—Abraham Lincoln.

On May 19, 1864, Isham Reavis and Anna Dorrington were united in marriage in Falls City. Anna Dorrington was a daughter of David and Anne Dorrington, who were well-known pioneer residents of Richardson county. Five children were born of this marriage, as follow: Mrs. Anna



(Reavis) Gist, of Falls City; Isham, Jr., deceased; David Dorrington Reavis, of Falls City, concerning whom a biography is given in this volume; Charles Frank Reavis, member of Congress from this district, and Burton Isham Reavis, of Falls City. All of the living children are residents of Falls City, and it was a source of supreme happiness to Judge Reavis that he lived to rear and educate his family and to see them take honored places in the life of the community of which he was one of the distinguished creators. Mrs. Reavis taught for a time in the first school established in the county.

For over half a century Judge Reavis was an honored member of the Masonic order and was the last of the charter members of Falls City Lodge No. 9, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. The Masons attended his obsequies in a body as also did the Richardson County Bar Association, augmented by the entire bar of Pawnee and Nemaha counties and members from Otoe, Johnson, Gage and Adams counties, who were associated with Judge Reavis in the State Bar Association.

Judge Isham Reavis did his work nobly and well and left to his family a splendid heritage of deeds which will live long in the hearts and minds of those who knew him best. He gave the best that was within him to the business and social life of the city, county and state and achieved a place of prominence and renown which will live through the years to come and which entitles him to a place among the leaders of the great commonwealth which he assisted in creating. His was a worthy life, his many years having been filled with usefulness and the accomplishment of things worth while.

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### JUDGE JOHN D. SPRAGINS.

Judge John D. Spragins, police judge at Falls City, an honored veteran of the Civil War, justice of the peace in and for Falls City, also engaged in the insurance business in that city, of which he is one of the pioneers, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of Nebraska ever since the summer of 1869, when he came out here and settled at Falls City, then a village of but two hundred and fifty inhabitants. He was born on a farm three and a half miles north of Galena, in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, December 21, 1840, son of Thomas and Louisa (Langlois) Spragins, both of French descent, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Illinois.

Thomas Spragins left Virginia in the days of his young manhood, in 1827, and came West, becoming one of the early lead miners at Galena, Illi-

nois. He was one of the party led by Monsieur Dubuque that crossed the Mississippi river and laid out the town that later developed into the present city of Dubuque. That party was run out by the Indians, but later Dubuque returned with a stronger party and the Indians were dispossessed of that tract forever, the town thereafter being peaceably settled. Thomas Spragins married Louisa Langlois, who was born at St. Charles, Illinois, daughter of Gabriel Langlois, a Frenchman, who later was killed in the Black Hills while on an expedition in behalf of the American Fur Company. In 1844 Thomas Spragins moved to the Apple River mines in Elizabeth, Jo Daviess county, where he made his home until 1869, in which year he came to Nebraska and settled at Falls City, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there in 1883. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: J. W. S., who went on farther West and spent his last days in California; Thomas F., who became a pioneer in Montana and there spent his last days; Mrs. Louisa Batchelder, now living at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin; Mrs. Julia C. Goodwin, who died in Milwaukee; Mrs. Annie E. Miller, of Duluth, Minnesota, and Mrs. Virginia P. Crowley, also of Duluth.

John D. Spragins grew up in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and from the days of his boyhood was trained in the ways of the mines, becoming an expert miner, and was engaged in working in the mines when the Civil War broke out. In August, 1861, he enlisted for service as a member of Company E, Forty-fifth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front with that command, continuing in service until the close of the war, being mustered out on July 12, 1865, with the rank of first lieutenant. During this long period of service Judge Spragins participated in eighty distinct engagements, including some of the hottest battles of the war, including forty-eight days at the siege of Vicksburg, during which historic siege his ability as a miner proved very serviceable, he having there had charge of a detachment of sappers and miners, whose hazardous task it was to mine under the Confederate forts and blow them up. On one of these expeditions the Judge was trapped with three others in his own mine, the rebels having been successful in blowing up the entrance to the mine, and before he and his men were able to dig themselves out they were almost overcome by the deadly mine "damp." After the fall of Vicksburg he was on provost-guard duty in the city from July 4 to October 24 and thence on down Black river, going on to Meridian, Mississippi, fighting every day, and at Canton, Mississippi, entered upon the task of destroying the railroad, tearing up twenty miles of track and destroying



twenty-three locomotives and other rolling stock. After this expedition the Judge was given a veteran furlough home. After some hazardous experience, on his return, he rejoined his regiment at Vicksburg and proceeded on to Huntsville, Alabama, and thence to Chattanooga and then on the march through Georgia. After the battles of Resaca and Cartersville, his regiment was detailed to guard the Ettawa bridge and from there went on, taking part in numerous battles including Kenesaw Mountain and Marietta and was then detailed to guard the bridge near the Chattahoochie cotton mills, burning that bridge when Atlanta fell and then returning to Marietta. Just as the army was starting on the march to the sea the Judge was seized with a severe attack of rheumatism and was turned back, that having been his last fighting. He remained on sick leave until he joined his regiment at Louisville; after the close of the war, the command proceeding thence to Chicago, where it was finally discharged. Among the other battles Judge Spragins participated in may be mentioned, as among the hottest, Ft. Henry, Ft. Donelson, Savannah, Pittsburg Landing or Shiloh, Holly Springs, Thompson's Hill, Clinton, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hills and the Black River and on to Vicksburg. His command was in action almost continually and, as noted above, he was an active participant in eighty distinct engagements.

Upon the completion of his military service John D. Spragins returned to Illinois and in June, 1868, at White Oak Spring, Wisconsin, was united in marriage to Lydia Frances Friend, who was born in Pennsylvania, daughter of George and Priscilla (Harrington) Friend. The next year, in August, 1869, the Judge and his wife and their four-months-old son came to Nebraska and located at Falls City, then a promising village of about two hundred and fifty inhabitants. He there became engaged as a building contractor and three years later engaged in the livery business, continuing engaged in that line for three years, at the end of which time he began manufacturing wagons and buggies and was thus quite successfully engaged until 1884, when he sold his establishment and went out to Hayes county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded a tract of land with a view to establishing a home there and "grow up with the country." The Judge has little to say regarding that homesteading experience, the disastrous experiment in pioneering being summed up in his terse phrase that he "saved himself, but lost five thousand dollars." Upon the failure to realize his plans as a homesteader, the Judge returned to Falls City and there engaged again in wagon-making, later moving to Straussville, Richardson county, but after a sometime residence there returned to Falls City, where he since has made his home. In

November, 1905, he was elected justice of the peace in and for Falls City and in April, 1906, he was elected city police judge, both of which magisterial offices he still holds. In addition to attending to his magisterial duties Judge Spragins is engaged in the insurance business and is doing very well. The Judge formerly was a Republican, but in the memorable campaign of 1896, became one of the ardent supporters of William Jennings Bryan and has since remained a Democrat. He is an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and is a Mason and an Odd Fellow, taking an earnest interest in the affairs of these several organizations. Judge and Mrs. Spragins have a pleasant home at Falls City and have ever taken an interested part in local good works. They have one son, George W. Spragins, who was born in Illinois in April, 1869, and is now a traveling salesman for the Oliver Chilled Plow Company. He married Grace Jack and has one child, a son. Given Spragins.

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#### MILLARD LEWIS WILSON, M. D.

Dr. Millard Lewis Wilson, of Falls City, Richardson county, and one of the best-known physicians and surgeons of this part of the state, a resident of this county since he entered upon the practice of his profession in 1896, is a native son of Nebraska and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in the immediate vicinity of Nebraska City, November 26, 1866, son of Enoch and Eunice (Jarrett) Wilson, the former of whom was born in the neighboring state of Iowa and the latter in the old state of Virginia, and who were married in Missouri. Enoch Wilson, a life-long farmer, served as a member of the state militia, the Union Home Guards, during the Civil War. In 1864 he settled on a farm just north of Nebraska City and there made his home until a few years ago, when he retired from the farm and moved into Nebraska City, where he is now living in the seventy-seventh year of his age. He was the father of ten children, eight of whom are living. Three sons of Enoch Wilson are physicians, Dr. S. S. Wilson, of Nebraska City; Dr. J. S. Wilson, of Johnson, Nebraska; Dr. M. L.; and an attorney, Judge W. W. Wilson, Nebraska City; Andrew, Nebraska City; Mrs. Dora Delzell, Peru, wife of Prof. W. N. Delzell, of Peru Normal; Donna, wife of Prof. J. W. Crabtree, president Normal school, River Falls, Wisconsin, and Della, at Nebraska City.

Reared on a farm, Dr. M. L. Wilson received his early schooling in the





MILLARD L. WILSON, M. D.





public schools, supplementing the same by a course in the State Normal School at Peru and thus admirably equipped by preliminary study entered the medical department of Cotner University at Lincoln and was graduated from that institution in 1896, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. In that same year the Doctor established an office for the practice of his profession at Humboldt, in this county, and after his marriage the next year established his home there, remaining there for eleven years, at the end of which time, in 1907, he moved to Falls City, where he ever since has been very successfully engaged in practice. The Doctor has well-appointed offices in the Wahl building and has ever kept abreast of the wonderful modern advances being made in his profession. In 1905 he took a post-graduate course at the Chicago Polyclinic. He is affiliated with the Richardson County Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the Nebraska State Eclectic Medical Society and the National Eclectic Medical Association and to the affairs and deliberations of these various learned societies gives his thoughtful and earnest attention. Doctor Wilson is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. He served for one term as coroner of Richardson county and has in other ways done his part in the public service. Dr. Wilson is president of the local board of pension examiners. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, besides various fraternal insurance associations, and in the affairs of all of these organizations takes a warm interest. Doctor and Mrs. Wilson have a very pleasant home in Falls City and take a proper interest in the general social and cultural activities of their home town.

• It was in 1897, at Essex, Iowa, that Dr. Millard L. Wilson was united in marriage to Elfrida Eugenie Ruth Osterholm, who was born in the kingdom of Sweden, February 15, 1875, daughter of Peter Emanuel and Anna (Schubert) Peterson (now Osterholm), who left their home at Branstorp, in their native Sweden, and came to this country with their family in the summer of 1881 and settled at Essex, in Page county, Iowa, where Mr. Osterholm engaged in the jewelry business and where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there on April 20, 1906. His widow survived him for nearly five years, her death occurring on December 3, 1911. Her Grandfather Schubert was born in the city of Edinburgh, Scotland, of German parentage. He was a sympathizer with the cause of the "Little Corporal" during the time of the Napoleonic Wars and became attached

to the staff of Napoleon's great field marshal, Gen. Johan Bernadotte, accompanying the latter to the Scandinavian peninsula when Napoleon created him king of Sweden and Norway, with the title of Carl XIV, and there Schubert fell in love with a lovely Swedish girl, married her and established his home in Sweden, Mrs. Wilson therefore being a great-granddaughter of one of Napoleon's favored soldiers of fortune. To Peter Emanuel Osterholm (born Peterson) and wife eleven children were born, of whom six are still living, those besides Mrs. Wilson being as follow: August, who is engaged in the implement business at Essex, Iowa; Dr. Martin Osterholm, Ph. D., professor of modern languages in the University of Heidelberg at Tiffin, Ohio; William, who is in charge of the efficiency department of the great Deering works at Chicago; Elmer, who is employed in that same department, and Mrs. Philip Schorr, of Ottumwa, Iowa.

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#### STEPHEN CONLEE BARLOW.

Stephen Conlee Barlow, an honored veteran of the Civil War, one of the real "old timers" of Richardson county, one of the founders of the village of Dawson and for years actively identified with the affairs of that village, one of the leading merchants of the place and in other ways interested in the business life of the community, now living comfortably retired in that village, is a native Hoosier, a fact of which he has never ceased to be proud, but has been a resident of this county since the days of the close of the Civil War and has therefore seen this region grow from its original wilderness state to its present flourishing condition as one of the richest agricultural communities in the great state of Nebraska. He was born on a farm in Shelby county, not far southeast of Indianapolis, the capital of the state of Indiana, January 15, 1842, son of Lewis and Ruth (Bishop) Barlow, both natives of Kentucky, but pioneers of Indiana, both having moved up into the Hoosier state with their respective parents in the days of their youth, the Barlows and the Bishops both settling in Shelby county in pioneer days. There Lewis Barlow and Ruth Bishop grew up and were married, establishing their home on a farm in that county and there continuing to make their residence until 1846, when they came West and settled in Polk county, Iowa, at a point six miles east of the present center of the city of Des Moines, back in territorial days. There Lewis Barlow built a log house and started farming, presently building a log addition to that house and in that addition



starting a country store. As others presently settled in that neighborhood, the store being the center of the social life of the settlement, he laid out on his place, with the store as the center, the townsite of Rising Sun, now a flourishing suburb of the city of Des Moines. He had to haul his merchandise up the river trail from Keokuk, then being the nearest extensive trading point. He gave to his new town of Rising Sun a plot for cemetery purposes and after his death in 1858 his body was laid away in that burying ground. He and his wife were members of the Christian church and their children were reared in that faith.

Stephen C. Barlow was four years of age when his parents moved from Indiana to Iowa and he was sixteen when his father died. He remained there assisting in the affairs of the store and of the farm until the Civil War broke out and on July 4, 1861, enlisted for service as a member of Company E, Fourth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and at the end of that term of enlistment, three years, re-enlisted, at Woodville, Alabama, and served until his final discharge, at Davenport, Iowa, August 23, 1865, having served for four years and six weeks. The Fourth Iowa was raised at Council Bluffs and went to the front under Gen. Granville M. Dodge, coming down the river. It was on this trip that Mr. Barlow got his first view of the beautiful valley of the Nemaha. When the boat carrying the soldiers reached Brownville the people of that vicinity turned out *en masse* and gave them a rousing reception. Mr. Barlow's first test under fire was at the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, and his last battle was that fought at Bentonville, North Carolina, this latter battle having been fought after Lee's surrender. He participated in the siege and capture of Vicksburg and in the battles at Arkansas Post, Chickasaw Bayou, Jackson, Champion's Hill, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, and then on with Sherman's army in the Atlantic campaign, the battles at Resaca and Dallas, and at the fall of Atlanta was in the seventh and final charge and hand-to-hand fight which effected the capture of DeGrasse's great battery. When General McPherson was killed he was within two hundred yards of the spot. He then went on with the army on the march to the sea and thence north after the taking of Savannah; witnessed the burning of Columbia and fought Johnston's army all the way through the Carolinas, the struggle culminating in the final battle at Bentonville. Mr. Barlow then went on with his command to Washington, where his regiment was accorded the honor of leading the Grand Review down Pennsylvania avenue. From Washington the regiment was sent to Louisville and while at the latter place Mr. Barlow secured a thirty-days furlough which he spent in visiting his wife and her folks out here in

Richardson county, he having married after he joined the army. Rejoining his regiment at Louisville he presently returned with that command to Iowa and was finally mustered out at Davenport.

Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Barlow returned to his home in Iowa and there remained a year, or until the fall of 1866, when he came to Nebraska, his wife's father, Ira Draper, and family being among the pioneers of Richardson county, W. F. Draper, his brother-in-law, having entered the tract of land now covered by the village of Dawson. Mr. Barlow drove through, crossing the river at Brownsville, and settled on the Stratton farm on the site of the old county seat of Geneva, where he remained for a year, at the end of which time he took a homestead one mile north and a mile east of the present village of Dawson and there established his home and proceeded to develop his place. He helped his brother-in-law, W. F. Draper, lay off the townsite of Dawson and there started a wagon shop, which he operated in addition to his farming work, and after the death of his wife in 1877 moved his family to the village. He built a new shop at the point now occupied by Cooper's store and operated the same for four years, at the end of which time he sold it and then started a restaurant. Meantime he had married again and after operating the restaurant for a year he sold it and bought Chittenden's store, built an addition to the store building, enlarged the stock and continued in business there until the spring of 1883, when he sold to Allen Brothers and then erected a brick store building and started a hardware store, which four years later he traded for property in Humboldt. He then opened a general store and continued operating the same until his retirement fourteen years later. Not content to live retired, he presently started another store, but two years later sold that place and retired from business permanently, being now, to use his own expressive phrase, "the president of the 'Never Sweat Club'."

Mr. Barlow is an ardent schoolman and was one of the first members of the school board in the Dawson district, a position which he occupied continuously, with the exception of one year, for thirty-three years. The first school in Dawson was started in a hall where the Stiles drug store is now located, and the school board presently erected a frame school building and after that structure was destroyed by fire, a brick building, Mr. Barlow having charge of the construction of the same. Mr. Barlow was present at the first Old Settler's meeting held in Richardson county and for twenty-five years thereafter held the post of director of ceremonies of those meetings, having charge of the platform and program of the two-



days meetings which have been so memorable a feature of the social life of the "old timers" of this county all these years. When the local cemetery association was organized in 1890 he was elected president of the same and has ever since held that position. For seven years he was manager of the Dawson-Nemaha Telephone Company and in numerous other ways has done well his part in the development of the village which he helped to lay out back in the days of the beginning of things in that part of the county. For many years Mr. Barlow was an ardent Republican, but of late years has been inclined to be somewhat independent in his political affiliations. He was one of the organizers of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Dawson, whose roster came to carry the names of forty-seven veterans of the Civil War, of whom but four now remain, those besides Mr. Barlow being E. W. Buser, R. B. Alien and E. T. Levy. When Mr. Barlow came to this county Indians still were numerous hereabout and wild game, including deer, was plentiful. He has seen these primitive conditions changed to the present well-ordered and highly-developed state of things that marks this region and there are few, if any, of the old timers of this section who have a more vivid recollection or more distinct impressions of the early days than he.

Stephen C. Barlow has been twice married. On March 4, 1864, he was united in marriage to Ruth Draper, whose brother, W. F. Draper, as noted above, was the original owner of the townsite of Dawson, and to that union four children were born, namely: Eugene William, who was killed while herding ponies; Louis Henry, a successful ranchman at Gillette, Wyoming; Elvon Eldred, of San Diego, California, and Ada Celia, wife of the Rev. C. F. Heim, of Eddyville, this state. The mother of these children died in 1877 at Hays City, Kansas, while on her way to the mountains with her husband, seeking a change of climate for the benefit of her health, she then being thirty-one years of age, and on June 1, 1878, Mr. Barlow married Frances Marrium Ingram, who was born in Ross county, Ohio, January 9, 1862, daughter of Jeremiah and Mary Jane (Wilson) Ingram, also natives of Ohio, who came to Nebraska in 1869 and settled near Dawson, where the latter died in 1872. Jeremiah Ingram remained in this county for years afterward and then went to Oklahoma, where he died in 1913. To this second union ten children have been born, as follows: Thomas Conlee Barlow, a noted musician, now living in the state of Washington, who served as a soldier during the Spanish-American War, serving for three years in the regular army, went to the Philippines as a Red Cross nurse and has traveled all over the world; Mary Ethel, who married William Heim,

a railroad telegraph operator, now living at Phoenix, Arizona; Charles Arthur, a traveling salesman of Seattle, Washington; Stephen Francis, a railroad train dispatcher, of Vancouver, Washington; Florence May, wife of Ora Barnwell, a telegraph operator in Arizona; Mrs. Leonā Ruth Price, who lives on a farm near Hastings, this state; Elma, wife of Prof. Abraham Lawrence, Jr., principal of the high school at Brownville, this state; Mrs. Evangeline Ord, of Sheridan, Wyoming; Ralph McKinley Barlow, in the United States naval service, and Esther Loverne, who is still in school. The Barlows are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and have ever been active in local good works, Mr. and Mrs. Barlow for many years having been helpful in promoting all agencies having to do with the advancement of the common welfare in their home town and in the community at large. Mr. Barlow has been a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since the year 1877 and has ever taken a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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### JAMES LINES SLOCUM.

James Lines Slocum, president of the Richardson County Bank of Falls City, former mayor of that city and a large landowner in Richardson county, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of the West since he was ten years of age and of this county since he was twenty-one. He was born on a farm in Linesville, Crawford county, Pennsylvania, December 1, 1844, son of Samuel E. and Mary V. (Line) Slocum, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of New Jersey.

Samuel E. Slocum, who became a resident of this county in 1865 and whose last days were spent in Falls City, was born in the state of Vermont on January 1, 1815, a son of Samuel Slocum, who was born in Rhode Island and the greater part of whose active life was spent as a sailor on the high seas. Samuel Slocum was a cousin of Commodore Perry, the hero of the decisive naval battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812, and for years he served as first mate on a sailing vessel. Upon his retirement from the sea he made his home with his son, Samuel E. Slocum, and died in the vicinity of Shubert, Nebraska, in 1865, shortly after coming here with his son, when the latter settled in this county. Samuel E. Slocum went to Pennsylvania, where, in Linesville, in Crawford county, he married Mary V. Line, who was born in Plainfield, New Jersey, in 1817, a daughter of



Amos Line, who was born in that same state in 1774 and who had emigrated to northwestern Pennsylvania early in the days of the settlement of that part of the state and had pre-empted a tract of land where the town of Linesville (named in his honor) now stands and where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in 1851. After his marriage Samuel E. Slocum established himself on a farm in the neighborhood of Linesville and there his wife died in 1851, leaving five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mrs. Mary Cornelia King, living at Shubert, this county, widow of John P. King, who died in December, 1916, at the age of eighty-three years; Mrs. Phoebe A. Storm, now living at Clinton, Oklahoma, widow of George I. Storm; George L., a retired farmer, now living at Stella, this county, and Rachel, deceased wife of Warren Hutchins, of Falls City. In 1855, about four years after the death of his wife, Samuel E. Slocum emigrated with his family to Iowa and bought a farm in Clayton county, that state, where he remained for eight years, at the end of which time, in 1863, he went up into Minnesota, where he farmed for a couple of years and then, in 1865, came down into Nebraska and settled in this county, in the vicinity of Shubert, where he spent the remainder of his life, an honored and useful pioneer citizen. Upon coming here Mr. Slocum bought a tract of unimproved land in the neighborhood of Shubert and proceeded to improve and develop the same and as he prospered he added to his holdings there until he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres. On that place he lived for eight years, at the end of which time he moved down to Falls City, adjoining which city he also owned a farm, and spent the rest of his life there, making his home with his sons, his death occurring in 1906, he then being past ninety-one years of age. Mr. Slocum was an earnest Methodist and helped to build the church of that denomination in Falls City.

As noted above, James L. Slocum was ten years of age when he came West with his father and he was about twenty-one when he came to Richardson county with his father from Minnesota in 1865. From the days of his boyhood he was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of the farm and he continued farming with his father until his marriage in 1874 when he located at Falls City and there engaged in the grain business, erecting a grain elevator at that place. In 1882 he disposed of his elevator and became connected with the Richardson County Bank, of which institution he was made president and has ever since occupied that position, long having been recognized as one of the leading bankers in this part of the state.

For several years Mr. Slocum also was president of the State Bank at Stella and he still retains an interest in that bank and is a stockholder in several other banks hereabout. In addition to his extensive banking interests Mr. Slocum has made considerable investments in farm lands and is the owner of several improved farms in this county, his holdings in that line aggregating more than three thousand acres. Mr. Slocum is a Republican and has ever taken an active interest in local political affairs, but the only public office he has held was that of mayor of Falls City, an executive position he occupied for two terms and during which period he did much to advance public improvements in the city.

It was in February, 1874, that James L. Slocum was united in marriage to Ida E. Hoops, who was born in Pennsylvania in October, 1852, daughter of George P. Hoops, a pioneer of Richardson county, who died in 1886. To that union three children were born, Jennie, who died at the age of six years; Mary S., wife of H. M. Jenne, merchant, of Falls City, and Carrie, wife of B. K. Baker, assistant cashier of the Richardson County Bank, who has a daughter, Virginia, and who makes her home with her father. The mother of these children died in February, 1912. Mr. Slocum is a member of the Christian church and is treasurer of the local congregation of that church. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the local lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

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#### EDWIN FALLOON.

The late Edwin Falloon, of Falls City, who at the time of his death in the spring of 1917 was the dean of the Richardson county bar and who had for years been one of the leading lawyers in eastern Nebraska, was a native of the Dominion of Canada, but had been a resident of this country since the days of his early infancy and of Falls City since 1882, continuously engaged in the practice of his profession in that city for a period of thirty-five years. He was born in the city of Montreal, the commercial metropolis of the Dominion of Canada, July 26, 1853, son of James Hugh and Marianne (Brazier) Falloon, also natives of Canada, the former born at Peterboro and the latter at Quebec, who later came to the United States, the former spending his last days at Athens, Ohio, and the latter, at the home of her son in Falls City, this county.

James Hugh Falloon was the son of John Falloon and wife, the latter







*Edwin Hallom*





VIRGIL FALLOON.





of whom was a Keller. John Falloon was born in Ireland, of Scottish descent, and was little more than a lad when he came to this country and settled in New York state, where he presently married. His wife was of Dutch stock, a member of an old family in New York. After their marriage they went to Canada, where John Falloon became a farmer and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Reared on a farm, James Hugh Falloon was early apprenticed to a carpenter and in due time became an expert builder, with particular reference to bridge construction. From the days of his boyhood he evinced an unusual aptitude for mathematics and was apparently a natural draftsman and designer. Upon completing his trade he began in a modest way as a contracting builder in his native province in Canada and it was not long until he found himself able to "swing" extensive contracts, particularly in the way of bridge building and public buildings, and he became highly successful. After his marriage he made his home in Montreal until in August, 1853, when he came with his family to the United States and located in Belmont county, Ohio, where he continued his contracting business. Meanwhile he had accumulated forty thousand dollars or more and with this as a working capital his success in this country was rapid and he engaged in general contracting and bridge building on an extensive scale throughout the Ohio Valley, doing a great deal of bridge building for railroads. In 1854 he located at Wheeling and there constructed the first suspension bridge across the Ohio river, the same connecting Wheeling and Bellaire. He also built a suspension bridge at Petersburg, Virginia. Later he made his permanent home at Athens, Ohio, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1886. His widow survived him about seven years, her last days being spent in the home of her son, the subject of this memorial sketch, at Falls City, where she died in 1893. James H. Falloon and wife were the parents of ten children, eight sons and two daughters, of whom but three now survive, James Falloon, of California; Arthur Falloon, of Ohio, and Albert Falloon, of Florida.

Edwin Falloon was but an infant, hardly a month old, when his parents moved from Canada to Ohio and he grew to manhood in that state, completing his schooling in the Ohio University at Athens. He had early given his particular attention to the study of law and in 1880 was admitted to the bar. Two years later, in 1882, he came to Nebraska and located at Falls City, where he opened an office for the practice of his profession and where he spent the rest of his life thus engaged, one of the best-known and most successful lawyers in eastern Nebraska and at the time of his

death on March 28, 1917, the president of the Richardson county bar, among the members of which he was always held in the highest respect. Mr. Falloon was a natural student, a scholar of wide learning, a forceful pleader before the court, a gentle moralist and philosopher, high-minded and tolerant in his views of men and principles, and in many ways performed a distinct service for the community in which for thirty-five years he had walked uprightly. His law library contained more than twenty-three hundred volumes and was one of the most carefully selected libraries in the state. This library, now cherished by his son and successor in the practice, is contained in a specially-constructed room in connection with the law office and Mr. Falloon took much pride and pleasure in his books. Mr. Falloon was a Democrat and was for years recognized as one of the leaders of that party in this section of the state. The only public office he ever held was that of county attorney, in which he served for two terms, 1887-88 and 1893-94. Fraternally, he was affiliated with the local lodges of the Masons, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the encampment of the same, of the Knights of Pythias, of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, in the affairs of which organizations he took an earnest interest.

In 1886, about four years after taking up his residence in Falls City, Edwin Falloon was united in marriage to Emma V. Stump, who was born in this county, daughter of Alfred Stump and wife, pioneers of this section of Nebraska, and to this union five children were born, namely: Sterling, who is now engaged in the wholesale business at Indianapolis; Virgil, a lawyer at Falls City; James, a salesman, now living in New York City; Kate, who is a student in the Nebraska State University at Lincoln, and Fern, a student in the Falls City high school and a member of the class of 1918. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Falloon has continued to make her home in the beautiful suburban residence in the northwestern part of the city, in the preparation of which Mr. Falloon took so much pleasure in his home-making days and in the enjoyment of which he ever delighted.

Virgil Falloon was born at Falls City on May 30, 1891, and was graduated from the high school in that city in 1909. He then entered Ohio University at Athens, his father's alma mater, and was graduated from the same with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in 1913, having taken the four-years course in three years. He then gave his attention to the study of law under the able preceptorship of his father and after his admission to the bar in December, 1916, became associated with his father in practice, succeeding to that practice upon his father's death about three months later.



Virgil Falloon is a Democrat, as was his father, and, fraternally, is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and with the college fraternity, Phi Delta Theta.

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### WILLIAM SCHOLL.

William Scholl, proprietor of an excellent farm of two hundred and ten acres in section 31 of the precinct of Barada, this county, is of European birth, a native of the grand duchy of Baden, but has been a resident of this country since 1882 and of Richardson county since 1885. He was born on October 19, 1866, son of Simon and Christina (Klonig) Scholl, also natives of Baden, the former of whom, a farmer, born there in 1828, spent all his life in his native land, his death occurring in 1904, and the latter of whom is still living there, now in the eighty-fifth year of her age. Simon Scholl and wife were the parents of three children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the only one who came to this country, the eldest of the children having died in infancy and the youngest of whom, his sister, Mrs. Mary Rothardt, is still living in Baden.

Reared on the home farm in his native Baden, William Scholl received his schooling there and when sixteen years of age, in 1882, came to the United States and for two years thereafter was engaged in working on a farm in New York state. In 1885 he came to Nebraska and began to work as a farm hand on a farm in the precinct of Arago, in this county, receiving a wage of twenty dollars a month. In 1888 he rented a tract of land and began to farm for himself. He married in the fall of 1892 and in 1894 bought the farm on which he is now living and on which his wife was born, and has ever since resided there. Since taking possession of that place Mr. Scholl has made numerous important improvements on the same including the erection of a new dwelling house and two barns and the planting of an orchard of three hundred trees. The first barn he built was destroyed by fire in 1913 and he erected a better one in its place. Mr. Scholl gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock in addition to his general farming and is doing very well. He is a Democrat and has served as a member of the school board of district No. 23.

Mr. Scholl has been twice married. On October 22, 1892, he was united in marriage to Caroline Hartmann, who, as noted above, was born on the farm on which Mr. Scholl is now living, in 1874, a daughter of Leopold and Sophia Hartmann, natives of Germany, who came to this state from Wiscon-

sin in 1872 and became pioneers of Richardson county. Mrs. Caroline Scholl died in 1904, leaving two children, a son and a daughter, William and Sophia, and in 1905 Mr. Scholl married Anna Scholl, who was born on a pioneer farm in the precinct of Arago, in this county, daughter of Fred and Mary (Heilmann) Scholl, natives of Germany, the former of whom was born on March 16, 1850, and the latter, April 18, 1857, who were married in their native land and remained there until in April, 1881, came to this country and proceeded on out to Nebraska and became residents of this county. Fred Scholl was a stonemason and after coming here worked at that trade until 1886, in which year he bought a farm in the precinct of Arago. In 1901 he bought the farm on which he is now living in that same precinct and there has made his home ever since. To him and his wife have been borne nine children, four of who were born in the old country. Those besides Mrs. Anna Scholl are as follow: Mary, deceased; Bertha, who married H. Fritz and is now deceased; Fredia, wife of H. Fritz, living near Verdon, this county; Fred, who is living in Arago precinct; Henry, who is farming the old home place; Katherine and Ida, who are at home with their parents, and Emma, deceased.

To William and Anna (Scholl) Scholl have been born four children, Elias, Fred, Emma and Edna. Mr. and Mrs. Scholl are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper part in church works, as well as in other neighborhood good works, helpful in promoting movements designated to advance the common good thereabout.

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### JOHN WHITE HOLT.

The late Hon. John White Holt, of Falls City, former state senator from this district, former treasurer of Richardson county, former president of the First National Bank of Falls City and for years one of the leading landowners and stockmen of this county, was a native of the neighboring state of Missouri, but had been a resident of this county since pioneer days, having come over here from Holt county, Missouri, in 1857, to engage in business at Salem and while thus engaged erected the first grain elevator at that place. He later engaged in farming and stock raising, was elected state senator and later county treasurer; later became engaged in the banking business, in connection with his other interests, and was for many years president of the First National Bank of Falls City, occupying that position at the time of his death on June 16, 1911.





John W. Holt





John White Holt was born in Boone county, Missouri, November 17, 1834, son of the Hon. David R. Holt, a pioneer of that county, after whom Holt county was named, who was born in Tennessee on November 8, 1803, and who died at Jefferson City, Missouri, December 6, 1840, while serving as a member of the Missouri General Assembly. His widow, Isabella (White) Holt, who was born in Washington county, Virginia, November 12, 1806, survived him for many years, her death occurring at the home of her son, the subject of this memorial sketch, at Salem, this county, April 20, 1869, she then being sixty-three years of age.

Reared in Boone county, Missouri, John W. Holt received his schooling in the early subscription schools conducted in the neighborhood of his home and at the age of sixteen, ten years after his father died, the larger part of the responsibility of maintaining the home fell upon his shoulders. At nineteen years of age he became a member of the mercantile firm of Gilmore, Holt & Company at Fillmore, Missouri, and in 1857, when twenty-three years of age, disposed of his interest there and came over into the then Territory of Nebraska and in association with J. C. Lincoln, a second-cousin of Abraham Lincoln, engaged in the general mercantile business at Salem, this county, under the firm name of Lincoln & Holt, that firm erecting the first grain elevator at Salem and in Richardson county. On account of failing health Mr. Holt disposed of his mercantile interests in 1872 and was thereafter extensively engaged in the live-stock business until his election to the office of county treasurer in 1878, when he moved to Falls City, where he ever afterward made his home. Previously, in 1876 and 1877, he had served that district as a member of the upper house of the Nebraska Legislature and had become recognized during that service as one of the most active members of the Senate. For two terms Mr. Holt served as treasurer of Richardson county and in 1882 was elected vice-president of the First National Bank of Falls City, of which institution he was one of the organizers and leading stockholders; later served for one year as acting cashier of the bank and in 1897 was elected president of the bank, a position he held until his death in 1911. In addition to his other interests Mr. Holt for years was one of the leading breeders of Shorthorn cattle and Berkshire hogs in this part of the state and took an earnest interest in the live-stock business. He also was a large landowner and was accounted one of the foremost citizens of Richardson county, ever helpful in promoting such agencies as were designed to advance the common welfare hereabout. He was a Democrat, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a Knight

Templar Mason, ever taking a warm interest in political, church and lodge affairs.

John W. Holt was four times married. On September 11, 1855, he was united in marriage to Mrs. Caroline Atkins, of Andrew county, Missouri, who died, leaving one child, a daughter, Carrie H., who married Edward B. Loughridge, of Lincoln, this state, and who died on December 20, 1915, at Los Angeles, California, leaving two sons, Ernest F., of Lincoln, and Donald H., who is living with his father at Los Angeles. On August 24, 1859, Mr. Holt married Alvina Spence, also of Andrew county, Missouri, who died not long afterward, without issue, and on May 8, 1863, he married Ellen Oliver, of Salem, this county, who bore him two children, now deceased, and who died on January 15, 1869. On November 8, 1869, Mr. Holt married his deceased wife's sister, Amanda M. Oliver, also of Salem, who survives him, and to that union four children were born, namely: Amanda M., who was born at Salem on May 21, 1871, and who died at the age of fifteen years, August 20, 1886; Nellie, July 11, 1872, who died in 1893, at the age of twenty-one years; George Brooke Holt, November 3, 1874, who married Grace Gossett and died at his home in Falls City on May 19, 1912, leaving a widow and one son, John William, now eighteen years of age, and William Robinson Holt, December 7, 1876, now engaged in the mercantile business at Falls City, who married Eva Giannini, of Falls City, and has one child, a daughter, Nellie Lee, now (1917) aged sixteen years.

Mrs. Amanda (Oliver) Holt, who since the death of her husband has continued to make her home at Falls City, where she is very comfortably situated, is a native of the old Hoosier state, born in Miami county, Indiana, January 29, 1847, a daughter of Robert and Ellen (McCoy) Oliver, natives of Virginia, who had settled in Indiana, moving thence, in 1855, to Missouri, and thence, the following year, 1856, to the then Territory of Nebraska, settling on a pioneer farm just west of the village of Salem, in this county, where they remained for a year, at the end of which time they moved into Salem, where Mr. Oliver spent his last days, his death occurring about a year later, July 20, 1858. He was born on February 28, 1806, and was thus fifty-two years of age at the time of his death. His widow survived him for many years and her last days were spent at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Holt, at Falls City, where she died on April 23, 1884. She was born on September 28, 1807, and was thus in her seventy-fourth year at the time of her death. Robert Oliver and Ellen McCoy were married on May 18, 1826, and to that union were born eight children, of whom Mrs.



Holt is now the only survivor, the others having been as follow: John, who died on April 4, 1847; Mrs. Sarah Ann Lyon, who died on April 14, 1848; Jared, who died on June 15, 1850; James, who died on April 19, 1858; Eleazer, who died on July 18, 1858; William R., who died on November 24, 1860, and Mrs. Ellen Holt, who died in 1869, as set out above.

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HENRY L. RUEGGE.

Henry L. Ruegge, one of Richardson county's best-known old settlers and pioneer farmers and the proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the precinct of Arago, where he and his wife are living in quiet comfort in the pleasant "evening time" of their lives, is of European birth, but has been a resident of this country and of Richardson county since he was twenty-five years of age, having come here with his parents back in territorial days, and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the development of this section of Nebraska since the days of the pioneers. He was born in what is now the Prussian province of Hanover, Germany, November 9, 1838, Hanover at that time having been an independent kingdom, and grew to manhood in his native land, learning there the trade of a wagon-maker, and was engaged there working at that trade until the summer of 1863, when he came to this country with his parents, Hans Henry and Wilhelmina (Starke) Ruegge. The Ruegges left their native land on August 31, 1863, and were seven weeks making the voyage across the water. Upon their arrival in the United States they came on out to the then Territory of Nebraska and Hans Ruegge bought the quarter section on which his son, Henry L. Ruegge, has ever since made his home, in the precinct of Arago, this county, the family settling there. Henry L. Ruegge broke the land with oxen and gradually got the place under cultivation. After his marriage in 1869 he established his home there and has ever since made that his place of residence, one of the best-known pioneer farmers of that section of the county. Hans Ruegge and wife were the parents of nine children, six of whom grew to maturity.

On February 4, 1869, Henry L. Ruegge was united in marriage to Sophia Hoose, who was born in Prussia on September 4, 1850, and who was but three years of age when her parents, George H. and Mary M. (Walder) Hoose, came to this country in 1853. Upon coming to this country George H. Hoose settled on a farm in St. Joseph county, Indiana, not far from the

city of South Bend, and there remained until in August, 1864, when he came with his family to the then Territory of Nebraska and settled on a farm in the precinct of Arago, in this county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. George H. Hoose was born on May 2, 1802, and died in April, 1892, and his wife was born on March 6, 1809, and died in 1882. They were the parents of eleven children.

To Henry L. and Sophia (Hoose) Ruegge nine children have been born, namely: Theodore, deceased; August, deceased; Mary, wife of D. Ramsey, living near Nims city, this county; Henry, a farmer, of the precinct of Arago; Minnie, wife of Edward Schuler, of Ohio precinct; Dorothea, deceased; Julia, wife of J. Hartman; Augusta, who is the housekeeper at the old home place, and Sophia, also at home. The Ruegges attend the Lutheran church and have ever taken a proper part in the general good works and social activities of the community of which they have been residents since pioneer days.

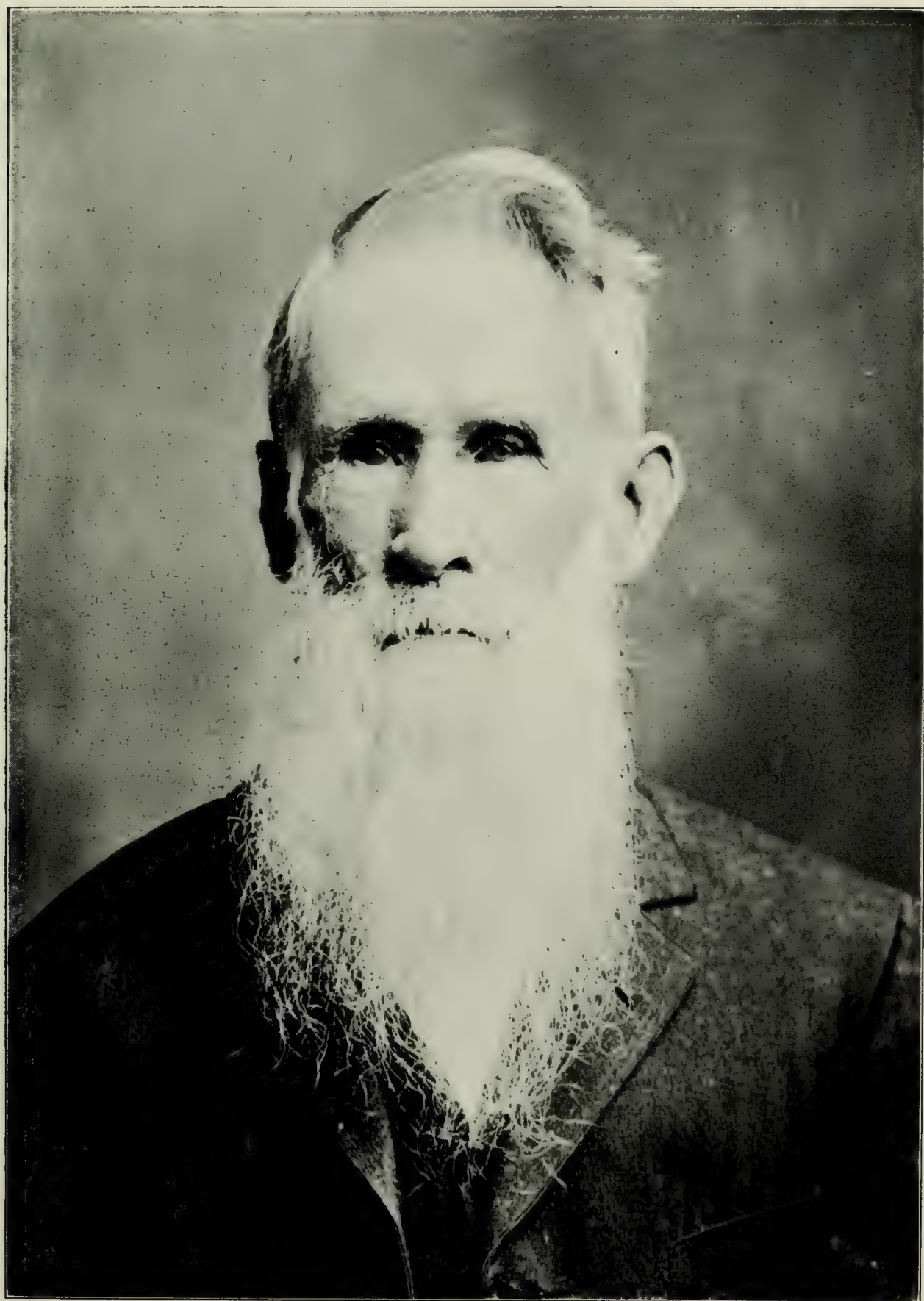
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### JOSEPH KELLEY CORNELIUS.

It is a fine thing to see a man who has come down to the autumn of his years, after life's trying vicissitudes, and find that his nature has not been embittered but still retains its sunshine and serenity, as has been the case with Joseph Kelley Cornelius, one of the venerable and honored pioneer citizens of Richardson county, who is residing at Humboldt. He was born in Henry county, Kentucky, June 20, 1830, and is therefore eighty-seven years old at this writing (1917). He is a son of Isaiah Cornelius, who was born in England, August 26, 1795, and died May 6, 1866. The latter's father, Matthew Cornelius, immigrated from England to America in 1796, locating at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where his son Isaiah was reared. He was bound out until he was twenty-one years of age as an apprentice. After his marriage he bought a farm, but not being a man of robust health he engaged in the lighter occupation of school teaching, also he was a minister of the gospel. He came West in an early day and his death occurred in the state of Missouri. His family consisted of ten children, of which number Joseph K., of this sketch, was fifth in order of birth, and the only one now living. His wife was Elizabeth Holmes before her marriage.

Joseph K. Cornelius received a common school education in Kentucky. When twenty-one years old he went to Illinois, where he engaged in farming about nine years. In the spring of 1860 he came to Richardson county





JOSEPH K. CORNELIUS.





Nebraska, locating in Porter precinct, five miles east of Humboldt, when settlers were few and the vast plains were the domain of red men and wild beasts. He got a tract of three hundred and twenty acres direct from the government, for which he paid as low as ninety cents per acre. He purchased land warrants. He began life in typical pioneer fashion, put up a small log cabin, and broke the virgin sod. However, his health being frail he drove oxen on the plains for some time in 1862, southwest of Denver, Colorado. His health improving he worked a while as a driver and freighter between Denver and Laramie, Wyoming, during the summers of 1863 and 1864. There were twenty teams in his outfit, and once, while on his last return trip from Leavenworth to Fort Union, New Mexico, while encamped near the Arkansas river he encountered a band of hostile Indians, a fight ensued, and although soldiers were only a half mile away they did not help. Mr. Cornelius was at the rear of the wagon train when the savages fired at him, but missed, killing an ox. Before the fight was over it was found that ten white men and two negroes had been killed and several wounded. All they had of value was stolen and carried away by the raiders. The Indians finally went away, fearing the soldiers. Bert Edwards, a young man in the party of teamsters, was killed. Al Edwards was also scalped, as was a boy named Magee, and a man named Waddell, who was lying sick in one of the wagons, was killed and scalped. It seems that Captain Davenport, with forty soldiers, well armed, was nearby, but for some reason, possibly fearing the Indians, the captain left the wagon train to its fate. Mr. Cornelius had a number of narrow escapes from death. Just after his last trip he was sick at Fort Leavenworth for two weeks.

After his career on the plains, Mr. Cornelius returned to his farm in Richardson county, which he developed and improved, operating it successfully from 1865 to 1911. Prospering through good management and close application he added to his original holdings until he had a total of eight hundred and eighty acres, all of which he still owns. He farmed on an extensive scale and raised large herds of live stock annually for the markets, in fact, he ranked among the most progressive agriculturists in the southeastern part of the state for a period of over a quarter of a century. Having accumulated a handsome competency and on account of advancing age he retired from active work in 1911 and moved to Humboldt, where he owns an attractive modern home, and here he is living comfortably, surrounded by all that goes to make life easy and pleasant, enjoying a well-earned respite after a long life of industry.

Mr. Cornelius was married on December 5, 1866, to Maria Tighe, who was born in Ireland in 1840. She is a daughter of Murtaugh Tighe, who brought his family to America from Ireland; he first lived in Illinois and later located in Richardson county, Nebraska, in the spring of 1865.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius: Alpheus B., who lives on the homestead in Porter precinct; John M. is a ranchman in Canada; Nellie is at home; Kittie is also a member of the family circle; Logan is farming a part of the home place in Porter precinct, and Bessie is at home. There are seven grandchildren.

Politically, Mr. Cornelius is a Republican, but he supported Woodrow Wilson in the general election of 1916. He is a member of the Christian church. He has always assisted in any movement having for its object the general upbuilding of his precinct and county, and his personal reputation has never been assailed. He owns several hundred acres of land in Canada.

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#### WILLIAM H. WHEELER.

William H. Wheeler, one of the well-known farmers of the precinct of East Barada, this county, living on the old homestead of one hundred and twenty acres in section 33 of that precinct, was born on the farm on which he now lives and has lived there all his life. He was born on November 11, 1859, a son of Henry Duke and Malinda (Buchanan) Wheeler, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Missouri, who became pioneers of Richardson county and here spent their last days.

Henry Duke Wheeler was born in Mason county, Kentucky, January 24, 1830, son of Levi and Mary Wheeler, the former a native of Germany, born on February 14, 1787, and the latter, of Ireland. Levi Wheeler was a soldier of the War of 1812 and was a well-to-do-farmer in Mason county, Kentucky, where Henry D. Wheeler grew to manhood. When the Mexican War broke out, Henry D. Wheeler, though then little more than a boy, enlisted for service as a member of Company E, Third Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, and served with that command until mustered out at Louisville at the close of the war. He later came West and on August 2, 1855, was married, in Holt county, Missouri, to Malinda Buchanan, who was born in that county on April 24, 1838, her parents having been among the very earliest settlers of that region. Immediately following his marriage he came across the river and bought a half section in the Barada half-breed strip in this



county, paying for the same nineteen hundred dollars to Huse Knuckles. There was a log cabin on the place at that time, but no other improvements of any consequence, and the white neighbors were few and far between, Indians still being in dominant numbers thereabout at that time. Mr. Wheeler set about clearing his land and getting the place ready for cultivation and had done considerable development work before 1861, in which year he returned to his old home in Kentucky to take care of his aged and invalid mother. After her death, about 1863, he returned to his home in this county and here he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on July 21, 1870, he then being about six months past forty years of age. He was one of the most active and progressive pioneers of that section and was the organizer of school district No. 25. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring on April 19, 1915, she then lacking but a few days of being seventy-seven years of age. They were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Dora, who died when seven years of age; Lawrence, who is engaged in the insurance business at Falls City; Mrs. Mary E. Riley, of Dawson, a biographical sketch of whose husband is presented elsewhere in this volume, and James, deceased.

William H. Wheeler was not yet eleven years of age when his father died and as the eldest son of the family the responsibilities of the home farm early fell upon his young shoulders and he always has made his home on that pioneer place, having thus participated in the development of the same since territorial days, one of the best-known of the native sons of Richardson county of the first generation on the plains. On the tract of one hundred and twenty acres of the old home that he inherited he made extensive and substantial improvements and he and his family are very comfortably and very pleasantly situated there. Mr. Wheeler is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but he has not been particularly active as a political worker.

On July 30, 1882, William H. Wheeler was united in marriage to Amanda Brinegar, who was born across the river in Holt county, Missouri, February 20, 1867, daughter of Andrew J. and Emily (Rusk) Brinegar, natives of Kentucky, who died when she was a child and she was reared by an uncle, David Brinegar, one of the pioneers of Richardson county, who came over here in the fifties and who is still living here, now a resident of Salem. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler have six children, namely: Ralph, who married Jennie Marsh, of Des Moines, and has three children, Tillie, Virgia and Phyllis A.; Ruth, who married William McGowan, of Halley, Idaho, and has

one child, a daughter, Helen Ruth; Susan M., who is a telephone operator in the exchange at Falls City, and Bryan, Hiram and Lila, at home with their parents. The Wheelers have a very pleasant home and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of their home community, helpful in many ways in promoting movements having to do with the advancement of the general welfare thereabout.

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### HUGH E. BOYD.

A public-spirited and successful man of affairs of Humboldt is Hugh E. Boyd, well known throughout Richardson county. He was born in Knox county, Ohio, August 8, 1862, and is a son of John S. and Phoebe (McWilliams) Boyd. John S. Boyd was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, in 1825, and there spent his childhood, being twelve years old when his parents, John and Anna Boyd, brought him to Knox county, Ohio, the family locating on a farm near Martinsburg, and there by hard work and perseverance they developed a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres from the wilderness and there continued to reside until 1888, when the father of the subject of this sketch came West and located at Salem, Nebraska, buying eighty acres on which he engaged in farming until he retired from active life. His death occurred in Salem in 1912 at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. His parents were natives of Greene county, Pennsylvania, where they grew up, married and established their home. They were both of Irish descent. There were three brothers of the Boyd family to emigrate from the "auld sod" in colonial days, one of them locating in New York, one in Pennsylvania and one in Virginia. The mother of the subject of this sketch was born near Martinsburg, Ohio, about 1826, and her death occurred in 1911. She also reached a ripe old age. To John S. Boyd and wife five children were born, namely: Mrs. Lydia Huston, who lives in Salem, Nebraska; John W. makes his home at Mt. Vernon, Ohio; Robert is deceased; William B. lives at Salem, this state, and Hugh E. of this sketch, who was fourth in order of birth.

John S. Boyd, father of Hugh E. Boyd, was a soldier during the Civil War, having enlisted on September 10, 1864, in Company I, One Hundred and Forty-Second Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was promoted to the rank of corporal. After serving one hundred days he was honorably discharged, December 15, 1864. Although the term of his enlistment was short he saw



considerable service in the Shenandoah valley, Virginia, on the Peninsula and in the operations of the federal troops on the James river and around Petersburg and Richmond. His company especially distinguished itself at the battle of Monocacy Junction, Maryland, July 30, 1864, in which his company was entitled to national thanks.

Hugh F. Boyd was reared on a farm and he attended the district schools and the high school at Martinsburg, Ohio, also an academy. He came West in 1882 and was employed in the flour mills at Salem, Nebraska, having charge of the mill in 1883 and 1884. He then took a position as assistant cashier in the Bank of Salem, where he remained until 1897, when he came to Falls City, Richardson county, and was connected with the store of Gist, Greenwald & Company until 1902, when he took up his residence at Humboldt, and was assistant cashier of the State Bank of Humboldt until 1904, when he returned to Salem and engaged in mercantile pursuits until 1906, then formed a partnership with V. G. Lyford at Humboldt. In 1912 he again turned his attention to banking and was assistant cashier of the National Bank at Humboldt for one year. Since 1913 he has devoted his entire time to the Building and Loan Association and the City Mutual Telephone Company, being manager of each, also secretary of the former. The pronounced success of these companies has been due very largely to his excellent management and close application. He also has other affairs and is owner of valuable city property at Humboldt, and owns a half section of land in the Kiowa valley, Colorado, within thirty-five miles of Denver. Two hundred acres of this land is planted to beans; Fred Boyd is now in charge of this farm.

Mr. Boyd was married on December 12, 1887, to Elizabeth A. Rouse, a daughter of Joseph and Marinda (Rice) Rouse, both natives of England. The father was born, March 13, 1813, came to America when young and devoted his active life to farming in Winona county, Minnesota, where he settled in 1856, and there his death occurred, February 10, 1895. The mother of Mrs. Boyd was born July 7, 1826, and died, February 2, 1900.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, namely: Harry, an electrician, lives in Des Moines, Iowa; Gladys, who was graduated from the Humboldt high school, is now teaching in the second grade; Fred M., who has charge of his father's farm in Colorado.

Mr. Boyd is an independent voter. On January 6, 1917, he was appointed county commissioner, which position he is holding to the satisfaction of all concerned. Fraternally, he belongs to Lodge No. 40, Ancient

Free and Accepted Masons, of which he was at one time master; he also belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, of which he was at one time a trustee in Lodge No. 5. He and his family are members of the Presbyterian church.

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### CHRIST. MADOWSE.

Christ. Madowse, former county commissioner, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and ten acres in sections 32 and 33 of the precinct of Barada and of seventy acres in section 4 of the precinct of Arago, owner of a threshing-rig which for years he has been operating in that part of the county and also a well-known stockman, giving his particular attention to the breeding of Missouri jacks of the "Mammoth" variety, is a native of the state of Illinois, but has been a resident of this county since he was nineteen years of age, having come here as a boy in the spring of 1883 to make his home with an uncle, Hans Koso, one of the pioneers of Richardson county, but two weeks later began to make his own way and has ever since been doing well, long having been recognized as one of the substantial farmers of that part of the county in which he lives. He was born on a farm in Effingham county, Illinois, July 4, 1864, son of Joseph and Sophia (Koso) Madowse, natives of Germany, the former a Mecklenburger, who were married in this country.

Joseph Madowse was born in 1834 and was about fifteen years of age when he came to this country in 1849 and located in the neighborhood of Chicago, where he began to work as a farm hand, later locating in Effingham county, Illinois, and married Sophia Koso, of McHenry county, Illinois, who was but a girl when she came to this country with her parents, and there he spent the rest of his life engaged in farming, his death occurring in 1869. He was the father of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth and one of whom died in infancy, the others being Anna, wife of F. P. Finck, of the precinct of Arago, this county, and Mrs. Mary Fopy, of Effingham county, Illinois. The widow Madowse married John Percival and to that union six children were born: George, of Effingham county, Illinois; William, of Barada precinct, this county, and a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Fred, of Effingham county, Illinois; Sophia, wife of I. Bailey, of Coles county, Illinois; Mrs. Sadie Reugge, of the precinct of Arago, this county, and one who died in infancy.

Christ. Madowse was only four years of age when his father died. He



received his schooling in the local schools of Effingham county, Illinois, and in February, 1883, he then being but nineteen years of age, came to Nebraska to make his home with his maternal uncle, Hans Koso, who had a farm twelve miles northeast of Falls City. Young Madowse arrived at Falls City on February 23 of that year with thirty-five dollars in his pocket and lost little time after his arrival in starting for the home of his uncle, walking out to the Koso farm twelve miles away. It was the first time he had ever been away from home and after he had proceeded on his lonely walk for some miles he realized that he was dreadfully homesick. He looked back toward the town he had just left and longed for his home in Illinois. He quenched his thirst in a small pool collected in a horse track in the highway and trudged along, arriving in due time at the home of his uncle. He remained there, however, but two weeks, at the end of that time securing employment on the farm of Fred Zorn, at a wage of sixteen dollars a month. A year later he rented a farm and started to farm for himself, "keeping batch" for three years, at the end of which time his sister, Mrs. Mary Fopy, began keeping house for him and this arrangement continued until his marriage in the fall of 1891. In the meantime Mr. Madowse bought a tract of one hundred and twenty acres of timber land in the precinct of Barada, paying for the same fourteen dollars an acre, and proceeded to clear and develop the same. Presently he bought a threshing-rig, operating the same by horse power until he later bought a tractor engine, and the proceeds of that venture went far toward keeping up the payments on his land, which he paid out in ten years. For twenty-three years Mr. Madowse continued operating his threshing-machine in season and became one of the best-known operators in that line in the county. He also gradually enlarged his landholdings and now, as noted above, is the owner of two hundred and ten acres in sections 32 and 33 of Barada precinct, where he has his home, and of seventy acres in the adjoining section 4 of Arago precinct, his place including ninety acres of natural timber, which he has retained. In 1907 Mr. Madowse began on a somewhat extensive scale the raising of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle and in that line has done very well. He also for some time has given considerable attention to the breeding of jacks and has two "Mammoth" jacks and two jennets of excellent strain and has done much to promote the raising of mules in his neighborhood.

On October 23, 1891, Christ. Madowse was united in marriage to Mary Ruegge, who was born on a farm in the precinct of Arago, this county, in March, 1873, daughter of Frederick and Dora (Hoose) Ruegge, natives of Germany and pioneers of Richardson county, who are still living in Arago precinct, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Minnie, born

on July 16, 1894. Mr. and Mrs. Madowse are members of the Lutheran church, as is their daughter, and Mr. Madowse is a member of the board of deacons of the same. He is a Republican and for years has given his earnest attention to local political affairs. In 1903 he was elected a member of the board of county commissioners from his district and held that office for two years. In 1912 he was again elected county commissioner and was re-elected, holding the office on his second period of service for four years. In 1903 he was elected a member of the school board for his local district and has held that position ever since, doing much for the advancement of the cause of education there. The Madowses have a very pleasant home and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of their home neighborhood, helpful in advancing all good causes thereabout.

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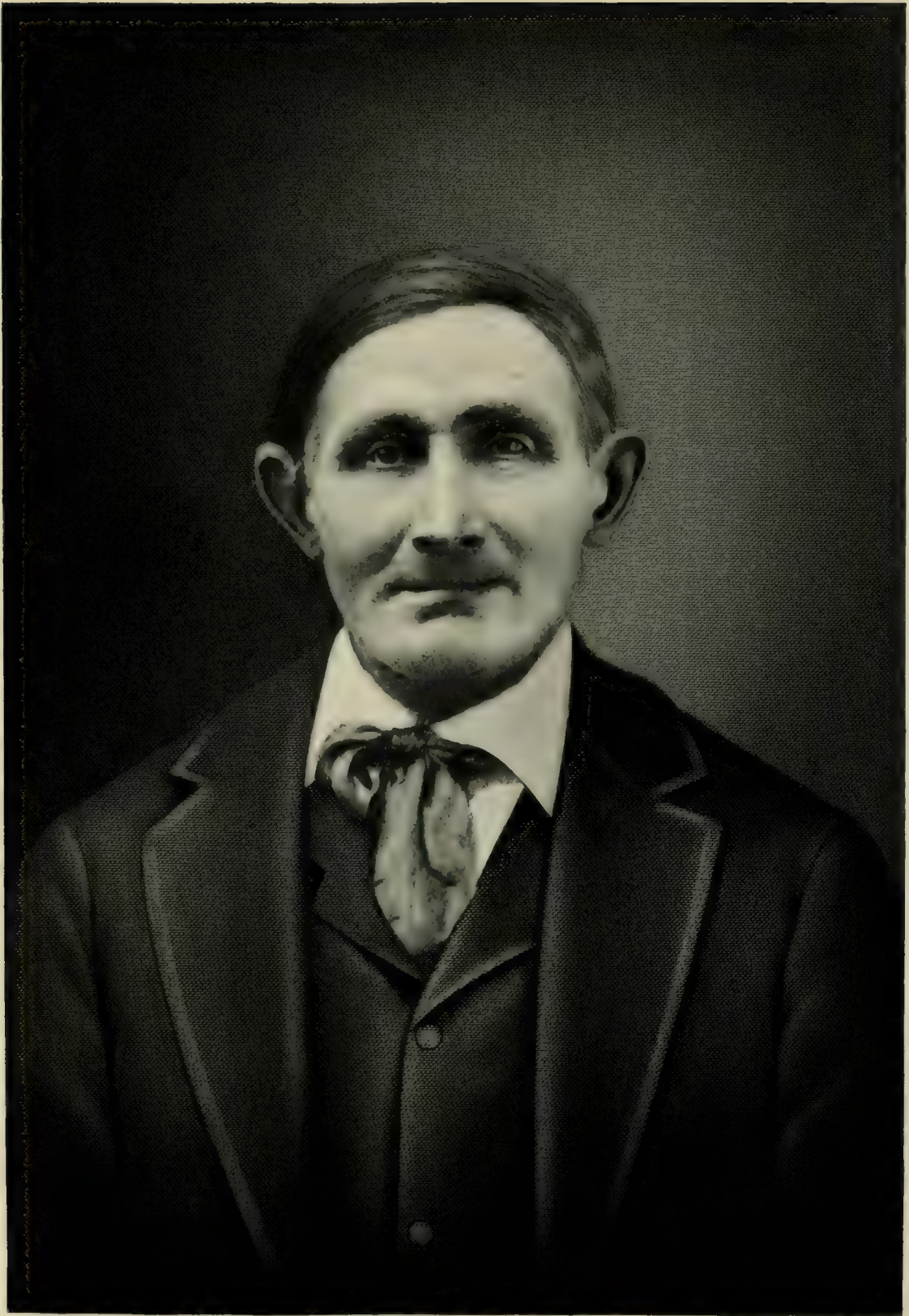
#### HERMAN TIEHEN.

The late Herman Tiehen, who at the time of his death in the spring of 1911 was one of the best-known pioneers and most substantial land-owners of Richardson county, a resident of the precinct of Salem since the middle sixties, was of European birth, but had been a resident of this country since 1851. He was born in the kingdom of Hanover on July 15, 1829, a son of Herman and Angeline Tiehen, both of the well-to-do rural class, the former of whom died in 1836, his widow surviving until 1884.

At the time of his father's death Herman Tiehen was but seven years of age and his boyhood was spent in helping his mother. He attended school until he was fourteen and then became a farmer and herdsman, remaining thus engaged until he was twenty-one years of age, by which time he had saved enough money to pay his passage to America, the great new land across the water on which his mind had long been set with a steadfast purpose there to try to create a better station for himself than he could hope to attain in his native land. In 1851 he set sail for New Orleans, paying a part of his passage by labor on the vessel, and upon his arrival at the southern port set out by river for St. Louis, but by the time he had reached St. Genevieve, Missouri, his meager funds had been reduced to forty cents and he could go no farther by boat. At St. Genevieve he secured employment at grubbing stumps at a wage of twenty-five cents a day and his board and worked through the winter at such employment. The following spring he began working for a farmer at a wage of eight dollars a

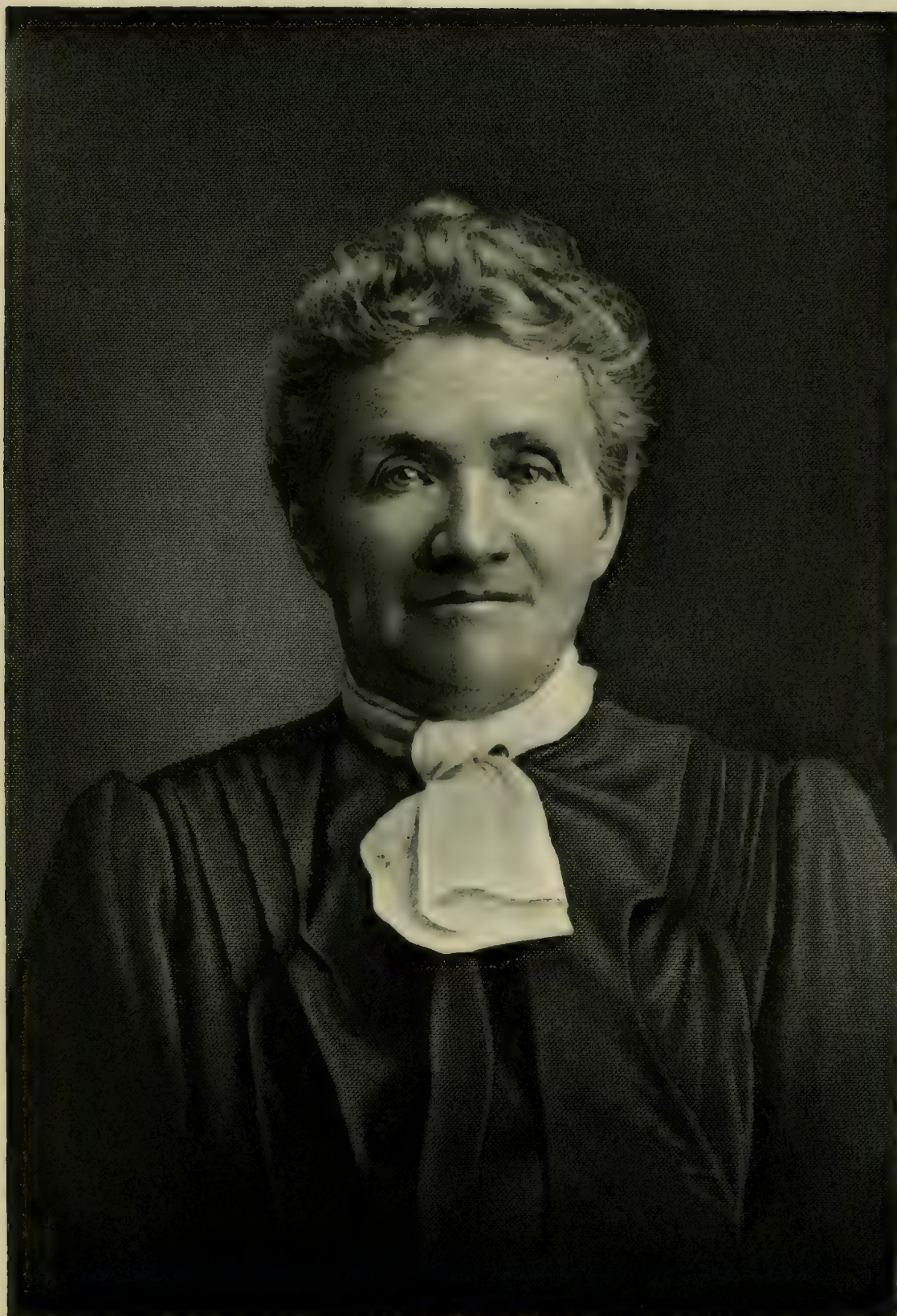






*Herman Tichen*





Catherine Tichen





month and was thus engaged until 1853, when he and five companions started from St. Genevieve with six yoke of oxen and a wagon laden with supplies, bound for the gold fields of California. Upon his arrival in the gold fields Mr. Tiehen had no difficulty in finding employment and in three years spent there managed to save three thousand dollars. In 1856 he returned by way of the Isthmus of Panama and presently made his way over into the then Territory of Nebraska and bought a tract of government land in Otoe county, eight miles southwest of Nebraska City. Erecting bachelor quarters on that tract, he settled down there and began developing and improving his place, living a bachelor life there until 1863, when he married one of the pioneer maidens of the Humboldt neighborhood in this county and two years later moved down into Richardson county and established his home on a farm in the precinct of Salem, he and his wife beginning housekeeping there in a one-room log house. Three years later when the first lumber brought up the river for this county to Aspinwall arrived, he bought lumber for a frame house and hauled the same over to his farm and there erected a comfortable house, which, with ample additions and improvements from time to time, served him as a place of residence the rest of his life. From that original quarter section in the precinct of Salem Mr. Tiehen gradually increased his land holdings, as his operations prospered, until he became the owner of nineteen hundred acres of land and at the time of his death was accounted one of the wealthiest men in Richardson county. Mr. Tiehen was a Democrat and ever gave a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, a strong factor for good in the pioneer days of this county, but never was a seeker after public office. He was a member of the Catholic church, as were all his family, and did much to extend parish activities in the early days of St. Herman's parish at Salem, and upon the occasion of the erection of the fine new church at Salem contributed twenty-five hundred dollars to the building fund. During the later years of his life Mr. Tiehen lived comfortably retired from the active labors of the farm, in full enjoyment of the ample rewards earned by his long life of well-directed industry, his death occurring on March 4, 1911, he then being in the eighty-second year of his life. His widow, who still survives him, continues to make her home on the old home place, where she is very comfortably and very pleasantly situated, one of the best-known pioneers of that section of Richardson county.

It was on January 16, 1863, that Herman Tiehen was united in marriage to Catherine Agnes Rothenburger, who was born in the neighboring

state of Missouri on April 21, 1842, a daughter of John and Wilhelmina (Neiters) Rothenburger, who later became early settlers in the Nemaha valley in this county and were long accounted among the foremost pioneers of the Humboldt neighborhood. John Rothenburger was a native of France, born on June 27, 1807. In 1840 he came to the United States, landing at the port of New Orleans, and in that same year made his way up the river to Missouri, where, a year later, he married Wilhelmina Neiters, daughter of pioneers of that state. In 1854 he came over into Nebraska Territory with his family and making his way up the Nemaha valley, settled on land which later came to be a part of the Humboldt settlement. When he entered upon possession of that tract there was no neighbor nearer than eighteen miles distant and the situation for the pioneer family seemed lonely and bleak, indeed. While Mr. Rothenburger was building a shanty on his claim he was surprised by the approach of a small band of hostile Indians. Hastily gathering his family in the wagon he lashed his horses into a run and sped across the prairie ahead of the redskins, making his way in safety to the river, twenty-two miles away. There he remained for a couple of months, by which time the hostiles had been driven out of this section, and he then returned with his wife and seven children to his claim, where he completed the erection of his shanty and established his home, he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives there, Mr. Rothenburger's death occurring on February 2, 1884, he then being eighty years of age. The pioneer farm on which he settled back in 1854, one of the first settlers in Richardson county, is still in the possession of the family, one of the valuable farm plants in that part of the county. Mr. Rothenburger raised the first crop of barley shipped from Rulo in this county.

Catherine Agnes Rothenburger was twelve years of age when she came to this county with her parents back in pioneer days and she grew up on the home farm, thoroughly familiar with all the details of pioneer life and subject to the hardships and privations of the same, and was living there at the time of her marriage to Mr. Tiehen in 1863. To that union seven children were born, namely: Minnie, born in 1864, who died in infancy; John, born in 1867, now a resident of Salem, this county; Mary, born in 1870, wife of William McDougall, of Falls City; Anna, who died in childhood; Catherine or "Katie," born in 1875, who is at home with her mother; William, born in 1880, now a resident of Falls City, and Agnes, born in 1885. Mrs. Tiehen has been a resident of Richardson county since pioneer days and is the second oldest pioneer of this county. Her recol-



lections of the incidents of the early times here are clear and distinct and her narratives of the events of those days form some most interesting and informative sidelights on conditions here in the days when this region was being claimed for civilization.

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### GUSTAV WILLIAM DUERFELDT.

Gustav William Duerfeldt, proprietor of "Catalpa Lane Farm," a fine place of two hundred and ninety acres in sections 30 and 31 of the precinct of Barada, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers and stockmen in that part of the county, manager of the Barada Exchange, a branch of the Southeast Nebraska Telephone Company, vice-president of the Barada Bank, former assessor of his home precinct and for years actively interested in the general affairs of that community, was born in a log cabin on the farm on which he now lives and which he now owns and has lived in this county all his life, with the exception of some years spent at Helena, Montana, in the early nineties. He was born on June 21, 1864, a son of Gustav C. and Louisa (Parchen) Duerfeldt, natives of Germany, who were married in the city of Buffalo, New York, and who later became pioneers of Richardson county, where their last days were spent, useful and influential residents of the precinct of Barada.

Gustav C. Duerfeldt was born in the kingdom of Prussia on December 11, 1826, and was twenty years of age when he came with his father, Gustav Duerfeldt, and the five other children of the family, the mother having died in her native land, to the United States, the family settling in the city of Buffalo, New York. Of these six children Gustav C. Duerfeldt was the eldest, the others being as follow: Bernard, who later went to the gold fields of California, where he was known to have saved a considerable quantity of gold dust and was ready to return to his home in New York, but was never afterward heard from, it being the presumption that he was murdered for his gold; Paulina, who married a man of the name of Smith and is now deceased; Mary, who married F. Haller and is also deceased; Fred, who served as a soldier of the Union during the Civil War, going to the front with a New York regiment, was with Sherman to the sea and who later became a pioneer farmer in the precinct of Barada, this county, where his last days were spent, and whose old army musket is still preserved in the family, and Charles, who

also came to this county and for some time was engaged in the butcher business, but later moved to a farm in Nemaha county, where he spent his last days.

Having been trained as a cabinet-maker in his native Prussia, Gustav C. Duerfeldt easily found employment in a cabinet shop at Buffalo upon his arrival in that city in 1846 and was engaged working in that one shop for fifteen years, or until he came to this county in 1861. In the meantime he had married, in Buffalo, Louisa Parchen, who also was born in Germany, May 26, 1837, and who was but sixteen years of age when she came to this country with her parents, and upon his arrival in this county in October, 1861, he bought a farm in section 3 of the precinct of Barada, the place now owned by the subject of this sketch, erected a log cabin on the same, that old log cabin still standing on the place, a priceless souvenir of pioneer days, and there established his home, one of the earliest settlers of that section, and there he spent the remainder of his life, a substantial farmer, his death occurring there on January 17, 1913. His first trip to Nebraska was made in 1858; when he came as treasurer of the Buffalo colony in order to pay off a mortgage on land purchased in Arago precinct by the colony. He carried with him \$4,200 in gold, which was worn in a belt made by his wife, and which he guarded day and night. His wife had preceded him to the grave about eighteen years, her death having occurred in 1895. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth, the others being as follow: George, deceased; Bernard C., of Barada; Mary, wife of the Rev. W. T. Grommisch, of Detroit, Michigan; Gustav, who died in early childhood; Paulina, deceased; William, deceased; Louisa, deceased; Bertha M. and Ida E., twins, the former of whom is the wife of William Zurbrick, a farmer living near Verdon, this county, and the latter the wife of Elmer E. Butler, of Hebron, this state; Henry G., a druggist at Spokane, Washington, and Edward C., of Herrick, South Dakota.

Reared on the farm on which he was born in the precinct of Barada, Gustav W. Duerfeldt received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and from the days of his boyhood was a valued factor in the labors of improving and developing the home place, remaining there until he was twenty-five years of age, when, in 1889, he went to Helena, Montana, to work for his brother in the establishment of the H. N. Parchen Drug Company and while thus engaged took a commercial course in a night school. He later became engaged with the street railway company at Helena and during the years 1891-93 was employed as a conductor and motorman and also as assistant engineering in the electric railway shops there. In the meantime, in the



fall of 1892, he married at Helena and not long afterward returned to his old home in this county and has ever since resided there, now being the owner not only of the old home place, but of some additional land, his farm comprising two hundred and ninety acres of excellent land in sections 30 and 31 of the precinct of Barada, known as "Catalpa Lane Farm," one of the best-kept and most profitably cultivated places in that part of the county. Ever since taking charge of that place in 1894 Mr. Duerfeldt has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and annually feeds several car-loads of cattle and hogs. He also has given attention to the general business affairs of his home community and has long been regarded as one of the most public-spirited "hustlers" in that section. In 1905 he became a stockholder and a member of the board of directors of the Southeast Nebraska Telephone Company and is now manager of the Barada branch of the same. He also is a member of the board of directors of the Barada Bank, of which he became a stockholder in 1906, and is now second vice-president of the same, at times acting as president. Mr. Duerfeldt is a Republican and for years has given his earnest attention to local political affairs, for thirteen years serving as chairman of the Barada precinct Republican committee. In 1906 he was appointed assessor of that precinct and held that position for three years. He also has served as a member of the school board for eleven years and in other ways has contributed of his time and energies to the public service.

On November 10, 1892, at Helena, Montana, Gustav W. Duerfeldt was united in marriage to Elizabeth C. Adami, who was born in that city on February 19, 1873, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Knipper) Adami, natives of Germany, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Bertha M., who was graduated from the Falls City high school and from the State Normal School at Peru and is now a member of the teaching corps of the Falls City schools; Pearl A., a graduate in music, who is now a teacher of music, and Clifford and Laura. The Duerfeldts have a very pleasant home at "Catalpa Lane Farm" and have ever given proper attention to the general social and cultural activities of the community in which they live. They are members of the Lutheran church and attentive to local good works. Mr. Duerfeldt is a member of the church council, practically succeeding his father in that position, who was an elder and one of the builders of the church. Mr. Duerfeldt has been a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Falls City since 1892, is a charter member of the Barada lodge of the Woodmen of the World, organized in 1895, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of both of these organizations.

## WILLIAM C. OSWALD.

William C. Oswald, a substantial retired farmer of Richardson county and an honored veteran of the Civil War, now living in Falls City, is a Saxon, born in the kingdom of Saxony on May 28, 1843, a son of William and Christina Oswald, the former of whom died in his native land in 1870, his widow later coming to this country, her last days being spent in Cedar county, this state, where her death occurred in 1909.

It was in 1858 that William C. Oswald came to the United States, he then being but fifteen years of age. It was his intention to join kinsfolk in Wisconsin, but upon landing at the port of New York he was without money to complete his journey and he accepted an offer of an Ohio farmer who was seeking "hands" and went to Springfield, Ohio, in the neighborhood of which place he began working for his employer at a wage of four dollars a month, which after some months was increased to six dollars. After some months of this employment he had saved enough money to pay his fare up into Wisconsin and he made a visit to his kinsfolk there, but not liking conditions in that then pioneer country he returned to Ohio and was working there when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted for service on September 7, 1861, as a member of Company H, Forty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, attached to the Army of the Cumberland, and with that command served for three years, receiving his discharge on October 12, 1864, after which he returned to Springfield, Ohio, and in the following November cast his first vote, voting for Abraham Lincoln for President. He then re-enlisted as a veteran and was attached to Company H, Eighth Ohio Cavalry, with which command he served until the close of the war. In November, 1865, Mr. Oswald made another visit to his kinsfolk in Wisconsin, but in the following April returned to Ohio. He was unable to get work there, however, and decided to come West, having heard much of the possibilities that awaited young men out here in the plains country. He headed for Leavenworth and after working a month there hired out as a freighter, joining a caravan of twenty-two wagons, each having five yoke of oxen, headed for Nebraska City. Upon arriving at this latter point he gave up his job as a "bullwhacker" and hired out to a farmer near Union, with whom he worked until in the fall. He then returned to Leavenworth, a three-days trip by horseback, and got his trunk, which he expressed to Nebraska City and then rode back to the latter point, another three-days horseback trip. During 1867 Mr.



Oswald worked in the French settlement at Julian, on the line between Otoe and Nemaha counties, and while thus engaged went over into the adjoining county of Johnson and exercised his soldier's right by filing on a homestead tract near Tecumseh. The next spring, 1868, he went over to his homestead and in three days had a dugout constructed there and felt quite well equipped for establishing a home. In July he married and he and his wife began their housekeeping in that Johnson county dug-out. During the first years of their residence there their crops were very poor and for fourteen years they faced continual hard times, but finally things began to brighten up a bit and the grinding poverty of those "lean years" was never felt again. When Mr. Oswald began farming on his own account on his homestead tract he had no team and while proving up his claim worked out elsewhere whenever he could, though maintaining his residence on the homestead, his sod shanty there serving as a shelter for himself and wife until they presently could see their way clear to the erection of a small house. Besides his lack of a team he was further handicapped by a serious injury to one of his arms and side sustained during the delirium of an attack of typhoid fever suffered while in the army. He finally got a team, however, but both horses presently died and he had the further ill luck to lose two other teams in quick succession, so that it was seven years before he finally got forty acres of his homestead under cultivation. In 1882 Mr. Oswald sold his homestead tract for twenty-five hundred dollars and came down into Richardson county, where he bought a quarter of a section of land two miles east of Salem, paying for the same forty-five hundred dollars, this transaction entailing a considerable debt, but he had a succession of good crops and paid out in good time. He built on that place a new house and farm building and otherwise improved the same and there made his home for ten years, at the end of which time, in 1892, he rented the place and moved to Falls City, where he and his wife have since made their home and where they are very comfortably situated, enjoying in comfort the rewards of their trying days on the farm as pioneers. Mr. Oswald is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

On July 31, 1868, William C. Oswald was united in marriage to Christina Hasenyager, who was born on a pioneer farm near Warrentown, Missouri, November 21, 1850, a daughter of John C. and Louisa (Brinkman) Hasenyager, natives of Germany, who settled in Missouri upon coming to this country and who moved over into Nebraska during war times, and to this union six children have been born, namely: William C., a farmer,

of Edison, this state, who married Emma Adams and has three children, John, Ruth and Fred; Ellen M., who married Dorsey Will, of Falls City, and has two daughters, Mrs. Florence Deitrich and Grace; Carrie, who married Ross Will, a farmer, living three miles west of Falls City, and has five children, Pearl, Myrtle, Orville, Evelyn and Robert; Frederick W., now a resident of Buffalo, Wyoming; John, a photographer at Falls City, and Lillian, also a photographer in her home town. The Oswalds are members of the German Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church affairs. Mr. Oswald is an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization.

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### FRANK KOTOUK, JR.

The name Kotouc has long been one of the best known in the western portion of Richardson county, and it is a name that has stood for enterprise, public spirit and good citizenship in general. One of the best-known members of the family is Frank Kotouc, a member of the firm of Kotouc Brothers, dealers in dry goods, clothing, furnishings, shoes, groceries, etc., at Humboldt. He was born on September 20, 1875, at Jitkov, Bohemia, and he is a son of Frank and Mary (Hon) Kotouc. The father was born on October 25, 1839, at Ransko, Bohemia, where he grew up, resided until 1874, when he removed to Jitkov, and engaged in business until 1882, when he brought his family to the United States, where he followed the trade of harness-maker, but in the old country he was a merchant. He had two children when he came to America, and he settled with his family at Humboldt, Nebraska, where he soon became prominent in local affairs. He helped to organize the Bohemian school, in which school he taught for about twenty years, working at his trade the meanwhile, giving one day out of each week to the school work. He retired from active life in 1902. He was a member of the C. S. P. S. Bohemian Lodge from 1882 until his death, which occurred on December 25, 1916. He was a son of Joseph and Anna (Ruzicka) Kotouc, who lived and died in Bohemia. The mother of the subject of this sketch was born on April 24, 1850, in Hermanuv-Mestec, Bohemia, and her death occurred on September 12, 1913. These parents were married on June 15, 1872, at Kruoemburk, Bohemia. They attended the Evangelical Lutheran church. Their family consisted of the following





FRANK KOTOUK, JR.





children: Frank, the first, died in infancy; Frank, the second, subject of this sketch; Lute B., who is manager of the Kotouc Brothers store at New Raymer, Colorado, married Emma Novak, and they have one child, a daughter; Milton, the first, died in infancy; Milton, the second, lives in Humboldt, and is a partner with his brothers in the store; Otto, who is cashier in the Home State Bank of Humboldt, married Camille Cernik, and they have two children.

Frank Kotouc, Jr., of this sketch, was six years old when his parents brought him to Humboldt, Nebraska, and here he grew to manhood and attended the public schools. Before leaving school he began working at the Standard Printing Company's office, receiving fifty cents per week for his work. He remained with that firm until in May, 1893, when he began clerking in a general merchandise store, but he soon began working for Morris Friend in his general store and a few months later he took a position with R. W. Coleman, with whom he remained until Mr. Coleman sold out, after which he worked for J. W. Housek, a merchant, during the year 1894, when he went to work for the E. L. Crane Jewelry Company. In October, 1896, in partnership with his brother, Lute B., he opened a new store at DuBois, Nebraska, starting on a small scale, carrying only an eleven-hundred-dollar stock. This proved to be a fortunate venture and the business gradually increased, and they maintained a store there for eight years. They erected the first brick building at DuBois and did much to boost the town. Then, in 1906, they sold out and, in partnership with R. E. Watzke, opened up "The Famous Store" in Humboldt, which they operated four years, then sold out to Mr. Watzke, after which the Kotouc brothers—Frank, Lute B. and Milton—started their present business, with a capital stock of fifteen thousand dollars. They purchased a brick building in Humboldt, which they remodeled and repaired extensively, including the installation of an elevator, the building, when completed, costing ten thousand dollars alone. The business was very successful from the start and they have enjoyed a large and growing trade all the while, many of their customers coming from remote parts of the country. They carry a large and carefully selected stock of dry goods, clothing, furnishings, shoes and groceries. Their store would be a credit to a town much larger than Humboldt. It is one of the most popular stores in Richardson and adjoining counties, for their customers know that they will never fail to be treated with courtesy and honesty. In 1916 the Kotouc Brothers opened a branch store in New Raymer, Colorado, which has had a rapid and satisfactory

growth under the management of Lute Kotouc. These brothers also own, beside their stores, four hundred and eighty acres of valuable land in Weld county, Colorado, which they expect to put under a high state of cultivation and improvement. They also own their store building in New Raymer, and considerable city property in Humboldt, Nebraska.

Frank Kotouc has remained unmarried. Politically, he is a Democrat, but is inclined to vote independently. Fraternally, he belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, also the blue lodge and the Eastern Star. He is not a member of any church, but attends and contributes to various denominations.

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### JOSHUA S. LORD.

Joshua S. Lord, cashier of the First National Bank of Falls City, a substantial landowner of Richardson county, former treasurer of the county, former representative from this district in the Nebraska General Assembly and for years actively identified with the political and business affairs of this county, is a native of the state of Illinois, but has been a resident of Nebraska and of this county since he was three years of age and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the development of this part of the state since pioneer days. He was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Rushville, Illinois, November 11, 1865, son of Joseph and Anna (Boyd) Lord, the former a native of England and the latter of Illinois, who became pioneers of Richardson county and here spent their last days.

Joseph Lord, who was born in 1828, remained in his native England until he was sixteen years of age, when, in 1844, he came to this country and proceeded to Illinois, where he became a farmer and where he presently married Anna Boyd, who was born in that state in 1830, daughter of pioneer parents. In 1868 Joseph Lord became attracted to the possibilities then open to settlers in the new state of Nebraska and disposing of his interests in Illinois came out here with his family and bought a partly-broken tract of land in this county, a portion of the old Indian Reservation, three and one-half miles southwest of Salem, and there established his home. He proceeded to improve and develop that tract and had a well-improved farm when death put a stop to his endeavors on February 10, 1874. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring on the old home farm in 1902, she then being seventy-two years of age. They were the parents of twelve children, seven sons and five daughters, of whom the subject



of this sketch was the tenth in order of birth, the others being James, Frances, William and Elizabeth, now deceased; Robert A., a retired farmer now living at Oklahoma City; Mrs. Sarah Ellen Clark, of Oklahoma; Joseph and Josephine, twins, the former of whom is a farmer south of Salem, this county, and the latter the wife of J. D. Harris, of Salem; Amanda M., widow of Herl Moore and the owner of an extensive ranch in this state; Charles A., who is engaged in the automobile business at Lincoln, and is one of the largest automobile distributors in this state, and Thomas, a well-to-do farmer living in the vicinity of Peru, in the neighboring county of Nemaha.

Joshua S. Lord was but a small child when he came to this county from Illinois with his parents and he was but nine years of age when his father died. He was reared on the home farm in the precinct of Salem, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and remained on the farm with his mother until 1883, when he turned his attention to business lines and became a druggist. He married in 1884 and later took a course in pharmacy and in 1889 engaged in the drug business on his own account at Salem and was there very successfully engaged in that line until 1903. In the meantime he had been giving considerable attention to local political affairs and in 1904 was elected, as the nominee of the Democratic party, to represent this district in the state Legislature, thus being one of the seven Democrats who served in the Nebraska House of Representatives in the memorable session of 1905. In the fall of 1905 Mr. Lord resigned his legislative office in order to accept the nomination for the office of county treasurer. He was elected to that office and his course in administering the affairs of the county treasurer's office proved so satisfactory that he was re-elected in 1907, the Democratic county convention having re-nominated him by acclamation, and he thus served for four years as county treasurer, one of the most popular officials in the court house. Meantime, Mr. Lord had taken up his residence in Falls City and upon the completion of his term of official service he was elected, in 1910, cashier of the First National Bank of Falls City, succeeding Governor Moorehead in that position, and has ever since been thus engaged, long having been recognized as one of the leading bankers in this part of the state. In addition to his banking interests Mr. Lord has a fine farm of three hundred acres in Salem precinct, a part of which is the old Lord homestead place, and takes much interest in the management of the farm.

In 1884 Joshua S. Lord was united in marriage to Eliza P. Boyd, of Salem, who was born in Forest City, Missouri, daughter of S. A. and

Arminda Boyd, both now deceased, who were early settlers at Salem, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Vera, born on November 15, 1887, who married Russell A. Hiatt, of Morrell, Kansas, and died on November 10, 1916, leaving a six-year-old daughter, Jean; Harold, born in 1892, who married Vera M. Watson and is now living on his father's farm in Salem precinct, and Mildred M., 1895, a graduate of the Falls City high school, who is at home with her parents. The Lords have a very pleasant home at Falls City and take an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of their home town. Mr. Lord is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes an active part in the affairs of that fraternal organization.

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#### DANIEL RILEY.

Daniel Riley, one of the real "old timers" of Richardson county as well as one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of this part of the state, is a native of New Jersey, but has been a resident of this county since he was four years of age, having come here with his parents in the spring of 1859, the Rileys becoming pioneers out here eight years before Nebraska was admitted to statehood, this region at that time being under a territorial government. He was born in New Jersey, thirty miles south of the city of Philadelphia, January 6, 1855, son of Michael and Mary (O'Brien) Riley, both of whom were born in County Tipperary, Ireland, the former in 1826, and the latter in 1830, but who were not married until after they came to this country, Michael Riley having come to this side of the Atlantic in 1847 and Mary O'Brien having come in 1851.

Michael Riley and Mary O'Brien were married in 1853 and made their home in the state of New Jersey until the spring of 1859, when they came to Nebraska Territory, landing at Rulo on April 3 of that year, having come by rail to St. Joseph and thence up the river to Rulo. At the latter place they secured an ox-team and a cart and drove west over the plains to a point three miles west of Verdon, in the precinct of Liberty, this county, Michael Riley having procured from an old Mexican soldier at Brownville the latter's warrant to a quarter of a section of land indicated in that precinct. On the old townsite of Geneva he bought a small house which he moved onto his claim and there established his home, he and his wife and three sons and his brother-in-law, Thomas Farrell and wife and son, making





MR. AND MRS. DANIEL RILEY.





their domicile there together. Two weeks later that humble abode was scattered over the plains by a tornado, but the pioneers gathered up the scattered boards, got together a bit of new lumber and reconstructed their house, a one-room affair, and in that modest abode the two families dwelt together for three years. At that time there was an abundance of wild game, while the prairie ponds were filled with fish, so the pioneers had no lack of food while they were getting their start as farmers. People had a happy way of taking things "easy" in those days and they suffered very little, even though the markets at Brownville and Nebraska City were far distant and supplies sometimes ran short. Michael Riley had two yoke of oxen and broke up his land without delay, soon getting the same under cultivation. He kept his first farm until 1864, when he sold it and bought a tract of one hundred and twenty acres southwest of Dawson, where he lived until the spring of 1884, when he bought a piece of land two miles and a half northeast of the village and there he spent the remainder of his life, dying on October 16, 1884. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: James, who died in Omaha in 1907, at the age of fifty years; William, who lives on the old home place northeast of Dawson; Bernard, who was born in April, 1861, the first of the family born in this county and a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Michael, who is farming the place on which his father died, northeast of Dawson; Mary, wife of M. J. Clancy, of Dawson, and Annie, born in 1870, who died in the spring of 1871. The mother of these children died August 21, 1858.

Having been but four years of age when he came with his parents to this county, practically all of Daniel Riley's active life has been spent here and there is probably not another man in the county who has a wider acquaintance hereabout than he, for he has been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days and has kept up his acquaintance with that development from the earliest dawn of his childish recollection. He was reared on a typical pioneer farm and as a lad did his share in the development and improvement of that farm, but he also found much time for fishing and hunting and his recollection is that there was mighty good fun for a boy on the free range in those days. The first school he attended was a subscription school started by Harry Cornell two miles northwest of Verdon, the rate of tuition being five cents a day for each pupil. He attended that school one month, in 1863, at the end of which time Cornell became ill and the school was abandoned. In 1865 he

had another chance to go to school in a little log school house not far away and there he received two more months of tuition. In that same year a log school house was put up in section 24 of Grant precinct, the first school opened in that precinct, and he entered that school, which was presided over by Mollie Pool. He attended school intermittently there until 1868, in which year the site of the school was changed to the top of the hill near the present village of Dawson and there he received some further tuition. In those days, of course, there were no free text-books, each pupil bringing his own books, and Mr. Riley recalls distinctly the transaction by which he acquired his first arithmetic, trading for the same one mink skin, while for his first spelling-book he gave a skunk hide.

Continuing to assist his father and his brothers in the labors of improving and developing the home farm, Mr. Riley remained at home until 1878, when he rented a tract of land and began farming on his own account. He saved a little money and in 1879 bought a "forty" north of Dawson, in the north half of the northwest quarter of section 11, paying eight dollars an acre for the same, but he did not improve the same, finding his efforts more profitably engaged elsewhere. In 1885 he bought a tract of two hundred and fifty-eight acres in section 21, paying fifteen dollars an acre for the same, and this he proceeded to improve and develop until he has made it one of the most productive farms in the county. As his affairs prospered Mr. Riley gradually added to his holdings until now he is the owner of eight hundred acres of as good land as there is in Richardson county, four hundred and forty acres of which surrounds his beautiful home in the bottom lands of the Nemaha. On that place he has expended twenty thousand dollars in tiling and ditching and his neighbors agree that he raises the finest corn in that community, his land producing from sixty to seventy bushels an acre. His residence is of modern construction, with hardwood floors and up-to-date conveniences, and his ample barns and other farm buildings are in keeping with the same, his farm plant being one of the best equipped in this region of fine farm plants. Mr. Riley is a Democrat and has from the days of his boyhood given his close attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office, though himself a real influence in local politics.

On November 26, 1912, Daniel Riley was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary Elizabeth (Wheeler) Whitney, who was born in the precinct of Barada, this county, November 24, 1862, a daughter of Henry Duke and Malinda (Buchanan) Wheeler, natives of Kentucky and Missouri, respectively, who came to Nebraska in 1859 and who returned to Kentucky during



war times, but came back here in 1866 and resumed their place on their home farm in Barada precinct, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the former dying in 1870, and the latter on April 19, 1915. Henry D. Wheeler fought in the Mexican War and Mrs. Wheeler was the only Mexican War pensioner in this county at the time of her death. They were the parents of five children, of whom three are living, Mrs. Riley having two brothers, William H. Wheeler, who is living on the old home place in Barada, and Lawrence Wheeler, of Falls City, who is also the owner of a farm in that precinct. Mary Elizabeth Wheeler grew to womanhood on the farm on which she was born and on March 11, 1880, was united in marriage to John Whitney, who was born in Missouri, a son of Wade Whitney and wife, who later came to this county and became pioneers of Grant precinct, John Whitney and Daniel Riley thus being schoolmates and playfellows in their boyhood days. John Whitney, who was born on August 2, 1854, died on May 6, 1901, he then being fifty-one years of age. He left two children, Claude, who is farming his mother's place, the Whitney farm in sections 24 and 26, and Guy, who is farming in section 20 of Grant precinct. Mr. and Mrs. Riley have a very pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social activities of their home community. They are members of the Catholic church and take an earnest interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general good works of the neighborhood in which they live. Mr. Riley is a liberal subscriber to the Red Cross movement and has purchased Liberty Bonds, as evidence of his patriotism.

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#### CHARLES HENRY THORNTON.

Charles Henry Thornton, well-known commercial photographer at Humboldt, was born on a farm near St. Joseph, Michigan, October 17, 1868, son of John M. and Jane (Brady) Thornton, natives of England, who in 1874 moved to Iowa and located at Stanton, where they conducted a hotel for three years, at the end of which time they located on a farm that Mr. Thornton had bought near there; later settling on a farm near Conway, Iowa, where they remained for three years, or until 1880, when they came to Nebraska and settled on a farm in Seward county, remaining there until 1891, in which year they moved to Sheridan, Wyoming, where their last days were spent.

Charles H. Thornton was six years of age when his parents moved from Michigan to Iowa and was twelve years of age when they came to Nebraska.

He grew up in Seward county, and remained there, farming, until the spring of 1893, when he bought a farm in Rawlins county, in western Kansas, and for three years tried to farm there, but was compelled to give it up on account of the continuous drought. He then returned to Nebraska and was for a time engaged in farming near Peru, later taking employment on a ranch in the vicinity of Concordia, Kansas, where he remained for four years, during which time he began to turn his attention seriously to the art of photography, presently opening a photograph studio at Auburn and was engaged in that business there until the fall of 1904, when he moved to Humboldt. On September 1 of that year he opened a studio at Humboldt and has ever since been engaged in business at that place, long having been recognized as one of the leading photographers in this part of the state. Mr. Thornton has a well-equipped studio and has built up a fine business, the high character of his work recommending it widely to discriminating patrons hereabout.

In 1899 Charles H. Thornton was united in marriage to Grace Elliot, of Auburn, this state, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Dale, born in 1905, and Leland, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Thornton are members of the Christian church and take a proper part in church work, as well as in other community good works and in the general social activities of their home town. Mr. Thornton is a Democrat, and, fraternally, is affiliated with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### DANIEL B. RATEKIN.

Daniel B. Ratekin, sheriff of Richardson county, former mayor of Rulo and who at the time of his election to the office of sheriff in 1914 was engaged in the automobile business at Falls City, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Rulo on October 2, 1881, a son of William L. and Mary Ann (Vaughn) Ratekin, natives of Ohio, who came to this county in 1864 and the latter of whom is still living at Rulo.

William L. Ratekin was born in 1834 and grew to manhood in Ohio, where he was married. During the early part of the Civil War he served as the driver of a commissary wagon in the Eastern Division and in 1864 came West and proceeded by steamer to Rulo, where he landed and where





DANIEL B. RATEKIN.





he made his permanent home, buying a tract of eighty acres of raw land a half mile west of that then bustling river town, establishing his home on the same and there he spent the remainder of his life, living to see the land for which he paid five dollars an acre increase many fold in value. A few years before his death he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Rulo, where he died in 1907 and where his widow is now living, she being now about seventy years of age. They were the parents of ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being as follow: Marion, now living at McFarland, California; Jacob, who died of mountain fever in Colorado years ago; Julia, now deceased, who was the wife of J. F. Vaughn; John, who is now living near Delta, Colorado; Mary, wife of Frank Wilhoit, of Centralia, Kansas; Ida, wife of E. W. Coupe, of the precinct of Rulo, this county; James W., a farmer in that same precinct; William F., now a resident of California, and Minnie, wife of George Goodale, of Rulo.

Reared on the home farm in the vicinity of Rulo, Daniel B. Ratekin received his schooling in the schools of that place and remained on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when, in 1902, he engaged in the transfer and coal business at Rulo and after his marriage two years later established his home there. Not long after taking up his residence in Rulo Mr. Ratekin was elected assessor, a position he held for three years. He later was elected school treasurer and he also held that office for three years. In 1912 he was elected mayor of Rulo and it was during his administration that the Rulo electric light plant, said to be one of the best plants for a town of that size in the state of Nebraska, was installed. Upon the completion of his term of service as mayor Mr. Ratekin moved to Falls City and there engaged in the automobile and general garage business, as a member of the Ratekin, Wolfley & Ball Company, and was thus engaged, as manager of that concern, when he was elected sheriff of Richardson county in 1914. So satisfactory did Sheriff Ratekin's services prove in this important public capacity that the Republicans of the county renominated him in 1916 and he was re-elected by the largest majority ever given a candidate for public office in Richardson county and is now serving his second term in the sheriff's office, one of the most popular and painstaking officials in the court house.

It was on September 15, 1904, that Daniel B. Ratekin was united in marriage to Minna A. LaBlanc, who was born at Rulo, this county, October 27, 1885, daughter of M. J. and Mary F. (Perkins) LaBlanc, natives, re-

spectively, of Canada and Missouri, and early settlers at Rulo, who were the parents of three children, one of whom died in infancy, Mrs. Ratekin having a sister, Mrs. Bessie Scott, living at Lexington, Missouri. Sheriff and Mrs. Ratekin have one child, a daughter, Mary H., born on October 27, 1905.

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### JOHN C. HELFENBEIN.

John C. Helfenbein, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and ten acres in section 22 of the precinct of Arago, this county, was born in that precinct and has lived there all his life, having thus been a continuous resident of Richardson county since territorial days. He was born on February 22, 1866, son of John and Lena (Buck) Helfenbein, natives of Germany, who were among the earliest settlers of this county and whose last days were spent here, the former living until June 10, 1912, he then being in the eighty-fourth year of his age. His wife had preceded him to the grave about four years, her death having occurred in 1908, she then being seventy-nine years of age. They were the parents of four children, namely: Mrs. Amelia Klink, of Missouri; August, deceased; John C., the subject of this sketch, and Ernest.

John Helfenbein, who was an honored veteran of the Civil War, was born in Hessenstadt on September 22, 1828, and had come to this country in the days of his young manhood, settling in Illinois, where he remained until 1858, when he came over into the then Territory of Nebraska and located at the site of the old village of Arago, first county seat of Richardson county, helping in the construction of the first house that was erected at that historic point. He bought a tract of land in the immediate vicinity of Arago, broke the soil with an ox-team and there farmed for a good many years, later moving to the southern part of the precinct, where he and his wife spent their last days. During the Civil War John Helfenbein served valiantly as a member of Company B, Fourth Missouri Cavalry, with which command he enlisted on March 13, 1862, and with which he served until his final discharge on March 22, 1865. During this service he nearly lost his life, receiving a serious wound when three horses fell on him during a desperate cavalry scrimmage. Some years before his death Mr. Helfenbein wrote an interesting narrative relating to his experiences as a pioneer of Richardson county and as a participant in the frontier warfare carried on out here during the Civil War period, which narrative has so much of historical interest that it is presented below:



"I came to the present site of Fargo, formerly Arago, Nebraska, in 1858. At that time there were no buildings of any kind at that place. During the following three years twenty-three families arrived and proceeded to erect dwelling houses and such other structures as they needed in a wild country.

"When the Civil War broke out there was on the opposite side of Arago, across the Missouri river, a small village called Marietta, which had a post-office, school house and a horse-power saw-mill. The Rebels raised the rebel flag at Marietta. We at Arago raised the Union flag; the flags being but one mile apart. The Rebels and those who sympathized with them threatened to come to Arago and pull down the Union flag and burn every house, but they never did. On March 13, 1862, I, with twelve others, went to Forest City, Holt county, Missouri, where we enlisted in Company B, Fourth Regiment, Missouri Cavalry. We remained three weeks in the vicinity of Forest City, scouting in Atchison, Holt and Nodaway counties; also pulling down rebel flags and taking them to headquarters and compelling them to swear allegiance to the Union.

"On April 1, 1862, our regiment met at St. Joseph, Missouri, where we entered on police duty, also scouting throughout Andrew, Buchanan and Platte counties. From there we moved to Kansas City, Missouri, and were camped there fourteen days, scouting in Lafayette, Johnson and Jackson counties. We lost two men of our company by Quantrell bushwhackers on Blue river, at Westport. From there we marched to Greenfield, thence to Springfield and then to Granby, Missouri, where we met the Rebels and fought them. We killed two and took seventeen prisoners. Then we went to Neosho, Newtonia and Mt. Vernon; thence back to Springfield. From there we were ordered to Lone Jack to reinforce the First Iowa, which had had an engagement with the Rebels commanded by Coffee and Range. We were in the saddle for twenty-seven days, during which time we scarcely found any food, either for man or beast. The Rebels lost one barrel of sugar, which we were fortunate to get and which was doled out to us one cupful a day as long as it lasted. On June 21, 1862, we espied some cabbage in a garden, to which we helped ourselves. We also found one barrel of molasses and three pieces of bacon, of which our dinner consisted. On June 27 we overtook the Rebels at Neosho and captured their cannons, after which they retreated.

"We participated in the battle of Newtonia, Missouri, September 13, 1862, and at Cassville, September 21, 1862. Before we went into the engagement at Newtonia, Kelly, our major, made something like the follow-

ing speech: 'Soldiers: Again you are called upon to advance on the enemies of your country. The time and the occasion are deemed opportune by your commanding general to address to you a few words of confidence and caution. Your movement being in co-operation with others, it is of the utmost importance that no effort should be left unspared to make it successful. Soldiers, the eyes of the whole country are looking with anxious hope to the blow you are about to strike in the most sacred cause that ever called men to arms. Remember your homes, your wives and your children, and bear in mind that the sooner your enemies are overcome the sooner you will be returned to enjoy the benefits and blessings of peace. Bear with patience the hardships and sacrifices you will be called upon to endure. Have confidence in your officers and in each other. Keep your ranks on the march and on the battlefield, and let each man earnestly implore God's blessing and endeavor, both by his thoughts and his actions, to render himself worthy of the favor he seeks. With clear consciences and strong arms, actuated by a high sense of duty; fighting to preserve the government and the institutions handed down to us by our forefathers—if true to ourselves victory, under God's blessing, must and will attend our efforts.'

"At Huntsville, Arkansas, three hundred of our men made battle on twenty-five sheep in a forty-acre pasture. The sheep were all killed, of course; no prisoners taken. At Fayetteville we captured a goose, which, after being equally divided, we prepared for dinner by immersing in a pot of hot water; each his portion according to command. We participated in the battle of White River, then we spent two days on Osage Mountain. On December 2, 1862, we surprised the Rebels on Horse creek, between Ft. Scott, Kansas, and Greenfield, Missouri, capturing ninety-three horses and saddles and all their firearms. On April 7, 1863, we marched to Sedalia, Missouri, and were compelled to swim the Grand river, which was then bank full and about a half mile in width. From 1863 to 1865 we were pursuing Quantrell and Jesse James, spending many nights in the forest trying to capture Jesse when he would be going courting his sweetheart at Dover, Lafayette county. On August 21, 1863, we captured a man of Quantrell's command who confessed to having killed a woman and throwing her and her baby into a burning building at Lawrence, Kansas. He was court-martialed and shot. On October 13, 1863, we fought Joe Shelby at Arrow Rock. On October 23, 1864, we fought General Price at Jefferson City, Missouri, and pursued him to Blue river, near Kansas City. In this engagement we lost our captain, Alvin Blair. My fastest riding was between the Blue river and Lexington, where I was commissioned to carry a dispatch through the enemy's lines. I was pursued



by them, but succeeded in getting away. We participated in numerous other bushwhacker skirmishes not necessary here to mention."

John C. Helfenbein was reared on the pioneer farm on which he was born, in the precinct of Arago, and grew up there thoroughly familiar with pioneer conditions of living. He received his schooling in the district schools of that neighborhood and from the days of his boyhood was a valuable factor in the labors of developing and improving the home place. He later began working as a farm hand, at a wage of fifteen dollars a month, and in 1884 he and his brother August began farming together, an arrangement that continued until his marriage in 1892, after which he bought an eighty-acre farm in the precinct of Ohio and there established his home, remaining there until 1896, when he sold that place and bought his present farm of one hundred and ten acres in section 22 of Arago precinct, where he has since made his home and where he and his family are very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. Since taking possession of that place Mr. Helfenbein has built a new house and barn, planted an orchard and made other substantial improvements, now having one of the best farm plants in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming he has devoted considerable attention to the raising of high-grade stock and has done very well. Mr. Helfenbein is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been included in the office-seeking class.

On April 21, 1892, John C. Helfenbein was united in marriage to Mary Miller, who also was born in Arago precinct, December 30, 1870, daughter of Jacob and Lena (Gebhard) Miller, the former an Alsatian and the latter a native of the city of New York, who became pioneers of Richardson county and here spent their last days. Jacob Miller was born in the then French province of Alsace on September 25, 1834, and was ten years of age when he came to this country with his parents in 1844, the family settling in Erie county, New York, moving thence in 1855 to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1859, when he located in St. Charles county, Missouri. A year later, in the spring of 1860, he came over into the then Territory of Nebraska and settled in this county, becoming engaged in farm labor in the neighborhood of Williamsville. In the fall of that same year he leased a half section of land from a Mr. Pickard, in Arago precinct, seven miles northeast of the present city of Falls City, and that winter split rails and built a log cabin, which is still standing. Mr. Miller was thus engaged in developing his pioneer farm when the Civil War broke out and on June 13, 1861, enlisted at Omaha for service in the Union army and went to the front as a member of Company B, First Regiment, Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, with

which he served until mustered out at Omaha on August 25, 1864, and during which service he participated in numerous important engagements, including the battles of Shiloh, Cape Girardeau and Clarington. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Miller returned to this county and in 1865 bought the quarter section he had leased and after his marriage in 1870 established his home there, remaining there until 1886, when he moved to Sheridan county, this state, but a year later he returned to his home farm and remained there until the fall of 1903, when he retired from the farm and he and his wife moved to Falls City, where both spent their last days, the latter dying on September 9, 1906, and the former on January 3, 1917. It was at Barada, this county, March 17, 1870, that Jacob Miller was united in marriage to Magdalena Gebhard and to this union nine children were born, those besides Mrs. Helfenbein, the fourth in order of birth, being Henry F., of Happy, Texas; Fred W., who is operating the old home farm; Mrs. Anna Zorn, of this county; Mrs. Ida Bertram, of Minnesota; Mrs. Ella Gerlt, of this county; Mrs. Lizzie Hunker, also of this county; Mrs. Minnie Bertram, of this county, and Mrs. Louisa Zorn, who died on February 12, 1912.

To John C. and Mary (Miller) Helfenbein four children have been born, Lena, August, Edna and Ernest. The family are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and take a proper part in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare thereabout.

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#### LEANDER C. PRICHARD.

Leander C. Prichard, one of the best-known farmers and stockmen of the precinct of Arago, this county, and the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and fifty acres in sections 4 and 5 of that precinct, is a native of the old Blue Grass state, but has been a resident of this county since 1880 and has consequently been a witness to and a participant in the wonderful development made in this section of Nebraska during the past thirty-five or forty years. He was born in Boyd county, Kentucky, January 15, 1854, son of William and Caroline (Newman) Prichard, both natives of that same state and members of prominent families in the northeastern part of Kentucky, the former born on June 9, 1827, and the latter, about 1830. The Prichards are an old family in the United States, the first of the name to come to this



country having been William Prichard, who came over from Wales in 1744 and established his home on this side, the family becoming plantation owners and persons of substance. William Prichard, father of the subject of this sketch, was of the same family as Dr. Lewis Prichard, the Charleston (West Virginia) capitalist and philanthropist, whose various beneficences have made his one of the best-known names in the field of philanthropy in this country. Both William Prichard and his wife spent their last days in Kentucky. They were married on March 15, 1853, and were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Columbus, deceased; James, deceased; Laura, deceased; Virginia, who married H. M. Bloss and is now deceased, and Robert, who is still living in Kentucky. The mother of these children died on January 10, 1881, and the father survived until February 12, 1906.

Reared on the home farm in northeastern Kentucky, Leander C. Prichard received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and finished his education at Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia, and early learned at his father's forge the blacksmith's trade. In 1880 he came to Nebraska and bought his present farm of one hundred and fifty acres in sections 4 and 5 of the precinct of Arago, where, after his marriage in the following spring, he established his home and has ever since made that his place of residence, he and his wife having one of the pleasantest homes in that part of the county. Mr. Prichard not only has a comfortable home, but an excellent farm plant and ranks among the progressive farmers of Richardson county. He has given considerable attention to the breeding of hogs, a former breeder of Poland China stock, but for the past year or two giving his attention to Duroc-Jersey stock, and has done very well. Politically, he is a Democrat, and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

On February 21, 1881, Leander C. Prichard was united in marriage to Laura L. Vaughan, who was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, January 24, 1864, daughter of Abraham and Sarah (Prichard) Vaughan, who came to Nebraska in 1865 and the former of whom died in May of that same year, two months after having established his family on a farm in this county. Abraham Vaughan was a native of the old Dominion, born in Wayne county, Virginia, now included in West Virginia, May 12, 1822, and his wife was born in Lawrence county, Kentucky, May 4, 1823. After their marriage they made their home in Lawrence county, Ohio, and in 1864 Mr. Vaughan came to the then Territory of Nebraska and entered a tract of land in this county, returning then to Ohio for his family and bringing them here in

the early spring of 1865. Two months later, in May, he died, leaving his widow with six young children and the pioneer farm to look after. She bravely faced many hardships in getting things going and rearing her children, but she kept the family together and lived to see them well established, her death occurring on July 27, 1898. Mrs. Prichard was the youngest of the children born to her parents and was but a babe in arms when she was brought to this county back in territorial days. She thus has seen the gradual development of this region since pioneer days and has ever taken a hearty interest in the same, contributing well her part to the general social and cultural activities of the community in which she has lived since the days of her infancy.

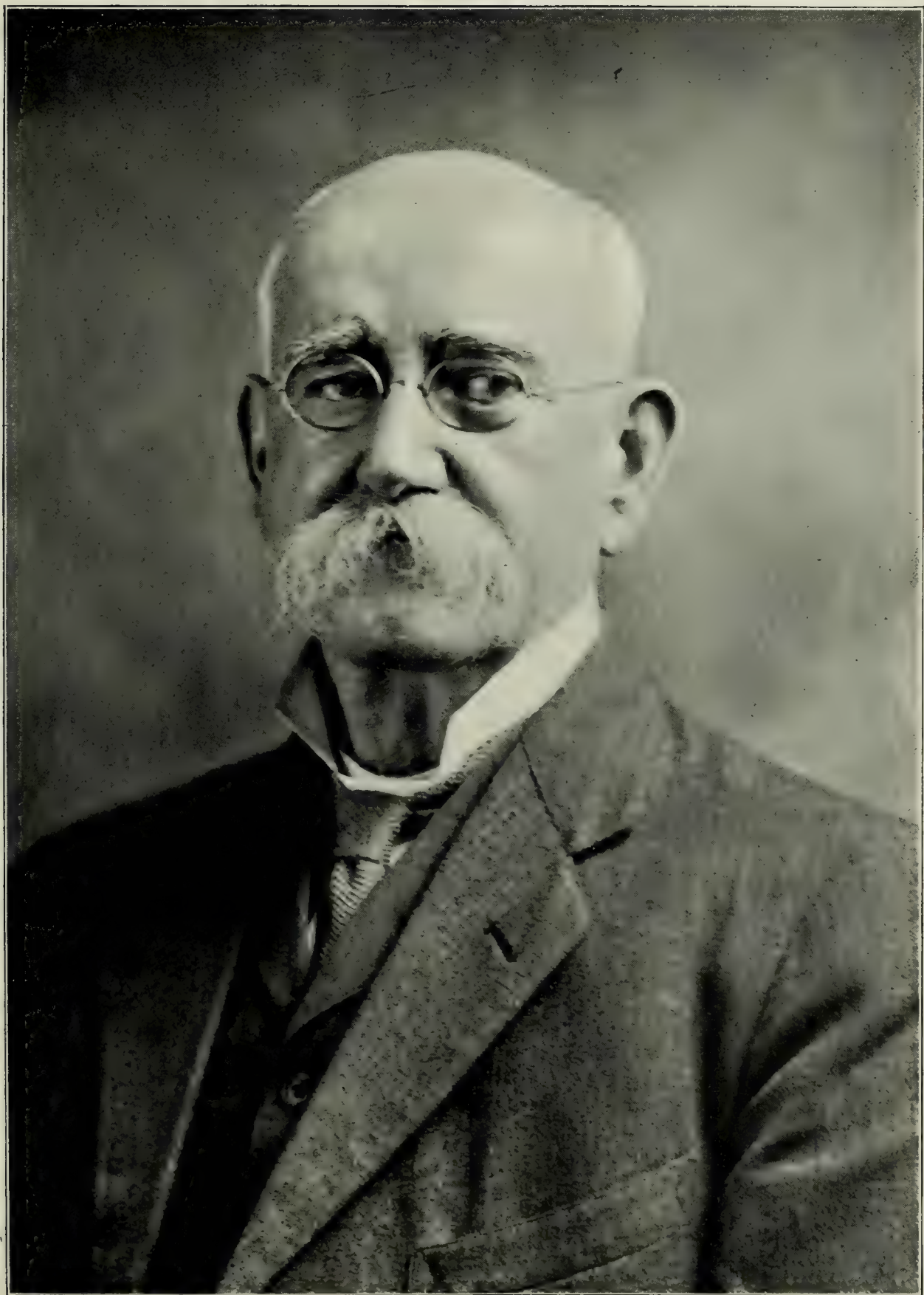
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#### CHARLES LOREE.

Charles Loree, clerk of the district court and old settler of Richardson county, is probably the most widely known official of Richardson county and it is probable that he is personally acquainted with more people in southeastern Nebraska than any other living citizen. This wide acquaintance is favorable and Mr. Loree is distinctly popular with the rank and file of Richardson county citizens. His geniality, obliging and kind disposition, wide knowledge of county affairs, have for years made of him a marked figure in the official and political life of his home county. He has been a resident of Richardson county for the past fifty-two years, over forty years of which have been spent in some official capacity. Charles Loree commenced his career in Nebraska as a farmer boy in 1866, and has filled many positions of trust in the service of the people since that year. He has witnessed the transformation of a boundless prairie into a great state and taken an active part in the upbuilding of a great county. He was born at Lebanon, Warren county, Ohio, March 19, 1852, and was a son of Dr. John and Elizabeth Loree, natives of the old Buckeye state.

Dr. John Loree was born in Monroe, Butler county, Ohio, in 1818 and died at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1902. He was a son of Hezekiah and Elizabeth (Boggs) Loree, the former of whom was a native of Cape May, New Jersey, and the latter was a native of Virginia. Hezekiah Loree was a son of Jasper Loree, who was descended from Colonial ancestry, of French origin. The mother of Charles Loree was of German descent and was born at Miamisburg, Ohio, in 1832 and died in 1911. The grandmother of Charles Loree died at Falls City in 1875 at the advanced age of eighty-four years. The





CHARLES LOREE.





Boggs family on his father's side are of Irish descent. It will thus be seen that Charles Loree is a scion of amalgamated American stock, the best of which is a result of the melting pot of the nations of the world which is constantly taking place in America. Dr. John Loree was a medical practitioner, who was proprietor of the Loree Ohio Liniment Company, which had its headquarters at Cincinnati, Ohio. During the Civil War he served in the capacity of Indian agent for the United States government and had charge of the Cheyenne and Arrapahoe Indians. He was commissioned a major under Gen. James Craig. In 1865 Major Loree purchased a farm located two miles from St. Joseph, Missouri. He traded this farm in the following autumn for one thousand acres of land within two miles of Falls City, Nebraska. Following his entrance into Nebraska he promoted the Nemaha Valley, Lincoln & Loop Fork Railway Company, now the Burlington and Missouri, or a division of the Burlington railway system, and served as president of the new railroad, making his headquarters at Lincoln, Nebraska, in the meantime. He later returned to Cincinnati and died there. The children of John Loree were as follow: Marie Frances, who resides in Falls City; Charles, subject of this review; Warren, living at Long Beach, California, and Harry, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Charles Loree received his education in the schools of Liberty, Indiana, Richmond, Indiana, and St. Joseph, Missouri, later attending the district school of Falls City. He also pursued a commercial and bookkeeping course in the Normal school at Peru, Nebraska. He first came to Richardson county in September of 1865, and then came here to remain permanently in 1866. For several years he followed farming and then became a clerk in a dry-goods store for four years. Following this he established a real-estate business and founded the first bonded abstract company in Falls City, which he is conducting successfully at the present time, in addition to his duties as clerk of the district court. He was appointed to the post of deputy county clerk in 1875 and served for two years; served as precinct and city assessor of Falls City for five terms; filled the office of clerk of the district court; served four years as county clerk; followed this position by six years service as register of deeds; was then elected county clerk for two years, following which he conducted his abstract business for two years, and is now serving his fourteenth term as clerk of the district court. The continuity in which Mr. Loree has held office in Richardson county is the best evidence of his efficiency, ability and popularity with the people of the county. In addition

to his other activities, Mr. Loree is a member of the Richardson county bar, having been admitted to the practice of law in 1883.

Mr. Loree was married on February 16, 1882, to Miss Emelie Lange, who was born in Wisconsin, April, 1857, and is a daughter of Frederick and Caroline Lange, natives of Germany.

Politically, Charles Loree is a Democrat of the "old school" of democracy, although he has progressed with his party and taken an active and influential part in the affairs of the Democratic party in Richardson county and Nebraska since he cast his first vote. He has taken part in every state convention held in Nebraska since statehood was established and served as the chairman of the Democratic executive committee in the county in 1916. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; the Knights of Pythias; the Modern Woodmen of America; the Royal Highlanders; the Benevolent and Patriotic Order of Elks; the Fraternal Order of Eagles; the German Society, "Deutsche Gesellschaft"; the Independent Order of Red Men, of which society he has filled the exalted office of grand sachem of the Nebraska tribes.

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#### ALBERT EBEL.

Albert Ebel, one of the substantial farmers of the precinct of Arago in this county, owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in section 16 of that precinct and former clerk and former treasurer of his home precinct, was born at St. Joseph, Missouri, August 15, 1873, son of Henry and Elizabeth (Kohler) Ebel, who became pioneers of Richardson county and here spent their last days.

Henry Ebel was a native of Germany, born in the town of Grabow, February 5, 1844, and grew to manhood in his native land, there learning the trade of carpenter and remaining there until he had attained his majority, when, in 1865, he came to the United States and proceeded on out to the then Territory of Nebraska and settled in this county, later going to St. Joseph, Missouri, where he began working at his trade, and where he was married on October 22, 1872, to Elizabeth Kohler, a native of the Republic of Switzerland, born on April 5, 1851, who had accompanied her parents to this country, the family settling at St. Joseph. In the meantime Henry Ebel had entered a small tract of land in the precinct of Jefferson, this county, and after awhile returned here and for a time made his home on that farm, later



moving to Atchison, Kansas, where he worked at his trade for three years, at the end of which time he returned to his farm in this county and settled down to improve and develop the same, and here he spent the remainder of his life, becoming one of the substantial farmers of that part of the county. He died on December 13, 1911, and his widow survived him but one day more than seven months, her death occurring on July 14, 1912. They were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: Charles, a farmer in Brown county, Kansas; Mrs. Lizzie Caston, of Jefferson precinct, this county; Mrs. Lena Hartman, of the precinct of Rulo; Mrs. Henrietta Zimmerman, of Jefferson precinct, and Henry, who is farming with his brother, Charles, in Kansas.

Reared on the home farm in Jefferson precinct, Albert Ebel received his schooling in the local schools and from the days of his boyhood was a valued aid to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home place and has continued farming ever since, now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in section 16 of the precinct of Arago, which he bought in 1907 and on which he since has made his home, he and his family being very comfortably situated there. In addition to his general farming Mr. Ebel gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing very well in his operations. Politically, he is a Republican and for fifteen years has been a member of the school board. He also served for two years as precinct treasurer and three years as clerk of the precinct and in other ways has done his part in the public service of the community in which he has lived since the days of his boyhood.

On February 9, 1899, Albert Ebel was united in marriage to Mary Hunker, who was born in Osborne county, Kansas, September 10, 1875, daughter of Jacob and Mary (Meier) Hunker, who became residents of Richardson county in 1877 and here spent the remainder of their lives. Jacob Hunker was born in Wittenburg, Germany, October 12, 1837, and in 1867 came to this country and located at Horton, Kansas, in the vicinity of which place he began farming and where, in 1868, he married Mary Meier, who was born at Glallfelden, in Zurich, Switzerland, December 24, 1850. Not long after his marriage Jacob Hunker moved to Osborne county, Kansas, and there remained until he came to this county and here established his home in 1877, becoming a substantial farmer in the precinct of Arago, where he remained until his retirement from the farm and removal to Falls City, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there on February 14, 1915. His wife had died many years before, her death occurring on December 18, 1880, a little more than three years after the family settled in this county.

To Albert and Mary (Hunker) Ebel five children have been born, Amos, Walter, Louis, Elsie and Alma. Mr. and Mrs. Ebel are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper part in church work as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

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### RICHARD C. JAMES.

Richard C. James, one of the best-known attorneys-at-law at Falls City, county attorney for Richardson county and a veteran of the Spanish-American War, is a native of the old Blue Grass state, but has been a resident of this state since he was a child. He was born at Maretburg, in Rockcastle county, Kentucky, October 14, 1879, son of Lafayette and Margaret (Lewis) James, natives of that same state and the former of whom was a school teacher. Mrs. James died in 1881 and Mr. James died in the following year.

Thus left an orphan when he was three years of age, Richard C. James was taken in charge by his maternal uncle, John Lewis, who then was living in Illinois and who later entered a claim to a tract of land in Holt county, this state, and there established his home. On that homestead farm of his uncle Richard C. James lived until he was fourteen years of age, when he began to make his own way in the world. As a means of completing his schooling he secured the position of janitor of the high school building at Dunbar, going to school there during the winters and working on farms during the summers, and was graduated from the high school in 1895. During the winter of 1895-96, he then being but seventeen years of age, he taught school and in the following spring entered the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and was pursuing his studies there when the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898. He enlisted for service as a private in Company D, First Regiment, Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, and with that command was sent to the Philippine Islands, taking part in the campaign about Manila and in the defeat of Aguinaldo's army. At the battle of Quingua in 1899 Mr. James were severely wounded and was later sent back to the United States in a hospital ship, afterward being mustered out with his regiment at San Francisco.

Upon being mustered out of the service Mr. James returned to Nebraska and resumed his studies in the State University, from the classical department of which he was graduated in 1902, with the degree of Bachelor



of Arts. He then entered the law department of the university and was graduated from the same in 1904, in which year he came to this county and opened an office for the practice of his profession at Humboldt. In the fall of that year he was elected county attorney and moved his office to Falls City, the county seat. So satisfactory did his services in that important official capacity prove that he was re-elected in 1906 and continued to serve as county attorney until January 1, 1909. In the spring of that year Mr. James moved to Omaha and was there engaged in the practice of his profession for a year, at the end of which time he returned to Falls City and resumed his practice in that city, which ever since has been his place of residence and where he has done very well, being now one of the best-known lawyers in this part of the state. In 1916 Mr. James was again elected to the office of county attorney and is now serving his third term in that capacity. He is a firm advocate of law enforcement and his vigorous prosecution of violations of the liquor law made him many friends throughout the county. Mr. James is an ardent Democrat and is regarded as one of the leaders of that party in Richardson county. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and, fraternally, is affiliated with the Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

Mr. James were married on April 28, 1917, at Falls City, to Mrs. Leona (Garrett) Lyon, a widow, and daughter of James H. Garrett, county superintendent of schools of Hooker county, Nebraska, a position which he has held for a number of years.

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#### AUGUST B. BECKER.

August B. Becker, one of Arago precinct's substantial landowners and one of the most progressive farmers of Richardson county, owner of more than three hundred acres in his home precinct and the proprietor of one of the best-kept farms in the eastern part of the county, his home being a bit over nine miles northeast of Falls City, is of European birth, but has been a resident of this country and of Nebraska since the days of his young manhood, and has done well in his operations since his arrival here back in 1876, in what was regarded even then as pioneer days. He was born in the grand duchy of Baden on February 27, 1852, son of William and Elizabeth (Redel) Becker, also natives of Baden, the former born in 1819 and the latter in

1822, who came to this country in 1878, their elder children having preceded them here, and settled on a farm in the precinct of Arago, this county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the former dying in 1892 and the latter in 1895. William Becker was a knifsmith in his native land, but after coming here became a substantial farmer. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: Prof. William Becker, teacher of German in Eden College at St. Louis, Missouri; Herman Becker, a farmer in the vicinity of Verdon, this county; Mrs. Mary Reschke, of the precinct of Arago; Mrs. Lydia Reschke, of the precinct of Jefferson; Charles, who is still living in his native land, and Mrs. Anna Schroedel, of Washington county, Illinois.

Reared in his native Baden, August B. Becker received his schooling there and there learned the trade of knifsmith, becoming a skilled and efficient cutler. He remained in his native land until he was twenty-four years of age, when, in 1876, he came to this country, coming over on the sailing vessel "Moss," which was only two weeks in making the voyage. His objective point was Nebraska, he having been in previous correspondence with others from Baden who had settled in Richardson county, and when he arrived in this county his slender supply of cash had been reduced to twenty-five dollars. For a time after his arrival here Mr. Becker worked as a farm hand and then rented a farm in Arago precinct and was engaged in farming during the period of the grasshopper scourge on the plains, a not very encouraging experience to a newcomer. He bought his present home farm in 1884 and after his marriage in the spring of 1879 he established his home on the farm and has ever since been engaged in farming and stock raising, long having been regarded as one of the leading farmers and stockmen in that part of the county. Mr. Becker now owns a very well-improved farm of one hundred and ninety-five acres in section 16 of the precinct of Arago and is also the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in section 25 of that precinct. He has a fine house and an excellent farm plant, situated about the center of his home place, and he and his family are very pleasantly and very comfortably situated there. The Lutheran church and cemetery are located on his farm. Mr. Becker is a practical farmer and an extensive breeder of Shorthorn cattle and has done very well in his operations. He has taken an interested part in the general civic affairs of his home community ever since acquiring citizenship here and for some time served as a member of the local school board. He and his family are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and take a proper part in church work, as well as in other



neighborhood good works and in the general social activities of their home community.

On April 17, 1879, August B. Becker was united in marriage to Lydia Sholl, who was born in New York on December 21, 1860, daughter of Philip and Lizzie (Kolsch) Sholl, natives of Germany, who came to this country in 1847 and to Richardson county about 1862, becoming substantial pioneers of this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Becker thirteen children have been born, namely: Philip, who is the owner of an eighty-acre farm in section 32 of Arago precinct; August, also a farmer in that same precinct; Henry, who is now a resident of the state of California; Ludwick, of Arago precinct; Lydia, who is at home; Ida, now living in Illinois; William, of Kansas City, Missouri, and Anna, Christina, Otto, Albert and John, at home, and Bernard, deceased.

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### JOHN FINDLAY.

John Findlay, a well-known stockman and farmer, living in Porter precinct, Richardson county, was born on October 6, 1865, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, the son of Hiram and Christena (Stinley) Findlay, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Germany, who settled in this county about forty-two years ago.

When Hiram Findlay came to Richardson county he settled in Ohio precinct, two miles north of Falls City, remaining there until 1881, when he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 12, Porter precinct. This land was raw prairie and he set to work to reclaim it and presently had a portion of it under crops, at the same time dealing in live stock. As he went along he made extensive improvements on his holding and continued farming to the end of his life. Christena (Stinley) Findlay left Germany when a child of four years old. Mr. and Mrs. Findlay became the parents of the following children: Mrs. Blair, deceased; John, Harvey, living on West Muddy precinct; William, who lives in Porter precinct; Frank, living in Porter precinct; Frank, living in Porter precinct; Evora, the wife of J. Waller and lives at Nemaha, this state; Mrs. Laura Miles, living in Dawson, Nebraska, and one who died in infancy. The parents were members of the Lutheran church and the children were reared in that faith.

John Findlay, the subject of this sketch, was reared on a farm and was ten years old when he came to this county with his parents. At the

age of twenty-three he began working for himself and rented land for one year, at the end of which time he bought his present farm. The land was broken but there were no improvements. He carried out all necessary improvements and now has his place well cultivated and he has prospered in his farm work and also as a breeder of Duroc-Jersey hogs.

On October 27, 1891, John Findlay was united in marriage to Laura Gunnison, daughter of Aquilla and Mosell (Peck) Gunnison, natives of New Hampshire and Wisconsin, respectively, who came to Nemaha and settled in an early day. To Mr. and Mrs. Findlay the following children have been born: Frank, who lives in Nemaha; Mrs. Evelyn Werth, residing at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and John, Joseph and Edwin at home with their parents.

Mr. Findlay, his wife and children are members of the Lutheran church. He votes independently in political affairs, but has never been a seeker after office. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Stella, Nebraska.

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### JOY M. NIMS.

One of the most progressive of Richardson county's younger farmers and stockmen is Joy N. Nims, of "Cardinal Stock Farm," Humboldt, a man whose motto seems to have ever been to do promptly and well whatever was worth doing. He was born at the town where he still resides, September 10, 1877. He is a son of William Nims, who was born June 21, 1843, and died on June 6, 1909. The latter was a son of Luther Nims, a native of New York state, and he was a son of Ruel Nims. Luther Nims emigrated to Waupun, Wisconsin, and there William Nims was born. The last named came to Nebraska in 1867, and here, in partnership with his brother, Ruel, opened the first store in Humboldt, Richardson county, under the firm name of Ruel Nims & Company. The first year they were in business they hauled their goods from St. Joseph, Missouri. Luther Nims also located at Humboldt, building one of the first homes in the town, also built the Central Hotel, the first in Humboldt. The stone store building which Ruel Nims & Company erected here is still standing. They continued in the mercantile business here until the early eighties, at which time they went to Gray's Harbor, Washington, where they opened a mercantile establishment in 1883. Returning to Richardson county in 1886, William Nims engaged in farming south of Humboldt, but made his home in the village. In 1897





Joy M. Nims





he went to California and again launched out in mercantile pursuits. He bought and sold bankrupt stocks of goods in Oregon and Washington, making his headquarters at Portland. His death occurred in Seattle, Washington, in 1909.

The mother of the subject of this sketch was known in her maidenhood as Sarah A. Morden. She was born in Canada, September 19, 1851; was married in 1874 and died, April 30, 1897, in Humboldt, leaving three children, namely: Joy M., of this sketch; Grace, a graduate of Leland Stanford University, who was the wife of Prof. J. G. Brown, a member of the faculty of Leland Stanford University, of Palo Alto, California, died in 1916; Lee, born in 1881, died in 1903 in Portland, Oregon.

Joy M. Nims brought the bodies of his father and brother back to Humboldt for interment in the family lot in the local cemetery. He received a common-school education and graduated from Leland Stanford University of California in 1905 with Bachelor of Arts degree and he was associated with his father in all his undertakings. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and now owns a finely improved and productive farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Richardson county, known as the "Cardinal Stock Farm," south of Humboldt and adjoining the city. On his place is to be found two complete and substantial sets of buildings—one mile south of town. In connection with general farming he is a breeder of pure-bred Poland China hogs of the big type. He keeps an average drove of two hundred head, and has raised and marketed as high as four hundred head annually. He is one of the best-informed hog raisers in the county and has splendid success with them. Owing to their superior qualities he finds a very ready market for his swine. Everything about his place indicates good management.

Mr. Nims was married on December 10, 1913, to Effie Richards, who was born at Blue Springs, Nebraska, where she spent her childhood and attended school. She is a daughter of J. T. and Mary (Parsons) Richards, who are now residents of Humboldt. Mr. Richards was formerly engaged in the hotel business, but is now farming. Mr. Nims' mother was a charter member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Humboldt. She came to Humboldt in 1867 and established the first millinery store in the village.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Nims, namely: Richard W., born December 26, 1914, and Lee, born May 25, 1916.

Politically, Mr. Nims is a Republican but is inclined to be independent. Fraternally, he belongs to the Woodmen of the World.

## JOHN WILLIAM HELLMANN.

John William Hellmann, well-known and substantial farmer and stockman of Richardson county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in section 22 of the precinct of Arago and of a quarter of a section of land in Morris county, Kansas, is of European birth, but has been a resident of this country and of Richardson county since he was seventeen years of age. He was born on a farm in the vicinity of Osnabruck, capital of the district of that name, in the then kingdom of Hanover, April 4, 1866, son of Christ and Mary (Nolte) Hellmann, also Hanoverians, who came to the United States with their children in 1883 and proceeded on out to Nebraska, arriving in Richardson county on August 5 of that year. About three years after his arrival here Christ Hellmann bought a sixty-acre farm in the precinct of Arago, there established his home and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, influential pioneers of that section of the county. Christ Hellmann was born on July 13, 1833, and died on December 17, 1901. His wife was born on November 6, 1828, and died on November 27, 1899. They were married on December 19, 1863, and were the parents of three children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Mary, wife of H. Zimmerman, of the precinct of Arago, and Anna, deceased.

As noted above, John William Hellmann was seventeen years of age when he came from his native Hanover with his parents in 1883 and settled in this county. As the only son of the family he was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home farm in Arago precinct and at the same time, during the winters, thoughtfully pursued his studies in the district schools of that neighborhood, supplementing the same by a further course in the high school at Falls City, preparing himself for teaching, after which he taught school and in 1893 began teaching school in the district schools of this county and was thus engaged until 1898, meanwhile continuing his farming operations during the summers on a farm he had rented and after 1898 gave his whole attention to the farm. On July 1, 1900, Mr. Hellmann bought the northwest quarter of section 22 in the precinct of Arago and after his marriage in the following October established his home there and has ever since resided on that place, that quarter section having been the nucleus of his present well-improved and profitably cultivated farm of two hundred and forty acres in that section. In 1916 Mr. Hellmann sold an "eighty" of his landholdings in this county and bought the southwest quarter of section 29, in Parker township, Morris county, Kansas, which



he is beginning to develop in admirable shape. His home farm plant is arranged with a view to the greater convenience and efficiency of management, his operations being carried on in accordance with modern methods of agriculture. He is a Republican and has ever given his thoughtful and intelligent attention to local civic affairs. From 1892 to 1900 he served as clerk of the precinct of Arago, was also for some time justice of the peace in and for that precinct and has also served as assessor and as overseer of highway construction.

On October 10, 1900, John William Hellmann was united in marriage to Elizabeth Redeker, also a Hanoverian, born near the city of Osnabruck on April 13, 1874, and who was but nine years of age when she came to this country with her parents, Herman and Katherine (Kahle) Redeker, in September, 1883, the family settling in Atchison county, Missouri. Herman Redeker and his wife are still living over in Atchison county, residents of the Westboro neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Hellmann have five children, Carl and Walter, who are students at St. Paul Lutheran College at Concordia, Missouri, and Minnie, William and Fred. The Hellmanns are members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church and Mr. Hellmann is the present secretary of the congregation, both he and his wife taking an active interest in church affairs, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live and to whose welfare they are so devoted. Mr. Hellmann has one of the finest private libraries in his section of the county. He is a constant reader and student, who keeps abreast of the times, and keeps himself well informed on literary and educational matters.

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#### FREDERICK E. NITZSCHE.

Frederick E. Nitzsche, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred acre. in section 23 of the precinct of Arago and one of the best-known residents of that part of Richardson county, is a native of the great Empire state, but has been a resident of this county since he was two years of age, with the exception of four or five years in the latter eighties and early nineties spent in homesteading in Logan county, Kansas. He was born in the city of Buffalo, New York, August 30, 1856, son of Frederick and Augusta Nitzsche, natives of the kingdom of Saxony, the former born on January 21, 1820, and the latter, June 21, 1823, who were married in their native land and in 1851 came to the United States, locating in the city of Buffalo, where they remained until

1858, in which year they came to the then Territory of Nebraska and settled in the old village of Arago, in this county.

Upon locating at Arago, the elder Frederick Nitzsche became engaged as a freighter, hauling freight by ox-team from the river landing to the stores in Arago, and continued to make his home in that village until 1871, when he settled on a farm in the precinct of Arago, the place now owned by the subject of this sketch, and there spent the remainder of his life, becoming a well-to-do farmer. Upon taking possession of that farm he established his home in a log cabin there and that humble abode served as a place of family residence until 1882, when he erected the substantial farm house which still serves as a place of dwelling there. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran church and helped to organize a congregation of that communion at old Arago about 1868. Mrs. Nitzsche died on September 20, 1871, and Frederick Nitzsche survived her many years, his death occurring on June 10, 1910, he then being past ninety years of age. They were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth. One of the sons, Charles Nitzsche, ran away from home to join the Union army during the Civil War and went to the front with a Missouri regiment. During his service he was captured by the enemy and served for five months in Andersonville prison before being exchanged.

As noted above, Frederick E. Nitzsche was but two years of age when his parents came to this county back in territorial days and he grew to manhood in the village of Arago and on the home farm in that vicinity, receiving his schooling in the little old log school house at Arago. He was a valued assistant in the labors of helping to develop the home farm after the family settled there in 1871 and after his marriage in the spring of 1883 established his home there and began to farm the place on his own account, renting the same from his father. In 1887 he entered a homestead tract in Logan county, Kansas, and moved to the same, making his home there until 1892, when he sold out and returned to the old home place in this county. In 1911 he bought from the other heirs their interests in the home farm and has since owned the same, a well-improved and profitably cultivated tract of two hundred acres in section 23, where he and his family are very comfortably situated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Nitzsche has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing very well.

On March 29, 1883, Frederick E. Nitzsche was united in marriage to Louisa Bickel, who also was born in the city of Buffalo, New York, June 29, 1865, daughter of George J. and Anna (Miller) Bickel, natives of Germany,



and who was but a child when her parents came West and became pioneers of Richardson county. George J. Bickel died here in 1876 and his widow is still living in this county, now a resident of Falls City, in the eighty-fourth year of her age. Mr. and Mrs. Nitzsche have nine children, namely: Arthur E., now a resident of Grand Island, this state; Rena, wife of H. Brinegar, of Rulo, this county; George, of California, and Katherine, Martha, Louisa, Fred J., Gertrude and Leonard, at home. The Nitzsches are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church and have ever taken an interested part in church work, as well as in other neighborhood good works and in the general social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. Nitzsche is an independent Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to the general political affairs of his home county, an earnest advocate of local good government.

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### JEREMIAH KANALY.

Jeremiah Kanaly, a well-to-do landowner and retired farmer and merchant of Richardson county and one of the best-known men in the county, now living at Falls City, where he has a splendid home, is a native of the great Empire state, but has been a resident of this county ever since he was thirteen years of age, with the exception of two years spent rather disastrously in the neighboring state of Kansas homesteading back in the old grasshopper days. He was born in New York state on January 15, 1853, son of Robert and Mary (Dillon) Kanaly, natives of Ireland, who later became residents of this county and whose last days were spent in the village of Rulo.

Robert Kanaly was born on August 23, 1817, and his wife, Mary Dillon, was born in 1820. They were married in their native Ireland and then came to the United States, locating in the state of New York, where they remained for a few years, at the end of which time, in 1855, they moved to the state of Illinois, where they remained until 1866, in which year they came to Nebraska and located at Falls City, thus having been among the earliest settlers of that place. Robert Kanaly was a blacksmith and he opened a blacksmith shop at Falls City. He and his wife were earnest members of the Catholic church and the first mass ever said in the parish of Falls City was celebrated at their home in the fall of 1867, a priest from Rulo being the celebrant and several families present, the Kanalys, the two

Farrell families and the family of George Roy being among those now recalled. In 1869 Robert Kanaly moved with his family to Rulo, where he opened a blacksmith shop and in the neighborhood of which place he presently bought a farm, he continuing to run his blacksmith shop and his sons operating the farm. Robert Kanaly and his wife spent their last days at Rulo, his death occurring on May 14, 1892, and hers, August 9, 1901. They were the parents of seven children, of whom four grew to maturity, those besides the subject of this sketch being John, of Rulo; Patrick, who died at the age of twenty-one, and Martin, who is farming on his well-kept place one and a half miles north of Rulo.

Jeremiah Kanaly was but three years of age when his parents moved from New York to Illinois and he was thirteen when they came to this county and settled at Falls City. There he continued his schooling and upon the family's removal to Rulo he helped on the farm until he was eighteen years of age, meanwhile continuing his schooling, and then began to work for himself as a clerk in a grocery store at Rulo. After eighteen months of that form of experience he started a grocery store of his own at Rulo and was thus engaged in business there until 1874, when he went over into Phillips county, Kansas, and entered a homestead but the grasshoppers came along and ate things up faster than he could raise them, placing an effectual damper on his ambitions as a farmer, and he gave up the homestead after two years of unprofitable struggle and returned to Rulo, where he again engaged in the grocery business and remained thus engaged until 1881, when he sold his store and bought a farm southeast of Falls City. The quarter section he bought at that time was wholly unimproved and he set to work to improve and develop the same, presently having one of the best-improved and most profitably cultivated places in that part of the county, every building, every tree and every shrub on the place having been looked after by himself. As he prospered in his farming operations Mr. Kanaly added to his holdings until he now owns seven hundred and thirty-four acres in three farms, one of one hundred and fifty-four acres; one of one hundred and six acres and another of four hundred and eighty acres, thus being accounted one of the most substantial landowners in the county. In 1903 he retired from the farm and moved to Falls City, where he built a fine residence and where he and his family are now living, very comfortably situated. During his residence on the farm Mr. Kanaly held various precinct offices, such as supervisor and as a school director in the precinct of Jefferson and has ever given his earnest attention to the general



political affairs of the county. He has seen this region develop from pioneer days to its present high state of progressive development. At the age of seventeen he helped in the construction of the old Burlington & Missouri River railroad and after he moved on the farm, when the Missouri Pacific road was being built out this way, he worked as a teamster in the construction of that road. He and Samuel M. Philpot, formerly of Humboldt, were pals from boyhood, having clerked together, homesteaded together and gone broke together. Though Philpot was a Presbyterian and a Republican and Kanaly a Catholic and a Democrat, their political and religious differences, even in the days long gone when such differences were more acute than they are now, never had any disturbing effect on the perfect quality of the fine friendship that bound them together. Another of Mr. Kanaly's activities in the early days of Rulo was the handling of the bulk of the pine lumber that was brought up the river for the establishment of the first lumber yard in Salem. He thus very properly may be regarded as one of the real old timers of Richardson county and he has a wide acquaintance throughout this part of the state.

On January 10, 1875, Jeremiah was united in marriage to Elizabeth Murphy, who was born in Iowa on January 16, 1856, daughter of Michael and Ella (Tobin) Murphy, natives of Ireland, who settled in Iowa upon coming to this country, later, in 1870, moving to Kansas and settling in Nemaha county, where they lived until 1875, when they came up into Richardson county and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume. To this union nine children have been born, namely: Robert, who is living on a farm three miles north of Falls City; William, who is farming the old home place in the precinct of Jefferson; Elmer, who is on the Miles ranch; John, a farmer, of Wessington, South Dakota; Thomas, who is on the home place; Lawrence, of Wessington, South Dakota; Frank, who is connected with the plant of the Ford Motor Car Company at St. Paul, Minnesota; Helen, wife of Frank Bucholz, of Falls City, and Alfred who is at home. Mr. and Mrs. Kanaly have thirteen grandchildren, in whom they take much delight. The Kanalys are members of the Catholic church and have ever taken a warm interest in parish affairs. Mr. Kanaly contributed very material assistance in the erection of the fine Catholic church at Falls City and has also done his part in promoting the general good works of the community, helpful in many ways in advancing the general welfare of the community of which he has been an active member since the days of his boyhood back in pioneer times.

## THOMAS M. WILKINSON.

It is not the kind of work, but the kind of spirit with which it is done that dignifies and exalts human service. This is a thought that should put heart into every worker, put cheer into his service and fill him with a large degree of satisfaction in doing the work that nature seems to have, in a way, appointed for him. Thomas M. Wilkinson, one of the most extensive farmers and stockmen in Richardson county, is a man who gets satisfaction out of his daily tasks. He was born on March 27, 1860, in Metcalfe county, Kentucky, being the first child born after the organization of that county. He is a son of William and Nancy B. (Hughes) Wilkinson. The father was born in West Virginia in 1814 and died in 1890. The mother was born in Kentucky in 1824 and died in 1893. She was a daughter of Jesse and Mary (Roundtree) Hughes, both natives of Virginia. William and Nancy B. Wilkinson were the parents of nine children, namely: John D. is deceased; Robert G. lives at Orvin, Nebraska; Julia is the wife of Charles Henderson, of Verdon, Richardson county; William M. lives in Beatrice, this state; Bettie, who married Charles Brown, is deceased; Thomas M., of this sketch; Charles lives at Haddam, Kansas; Gilbert is deceased; Laura is the wife of Edward Tracy, an attorney at Victoria, Texas. William Wilkinson, the father, was a son of William Wilkinson, a native of Virginia, from which state he moved to Kentucky in an early day, about 1825, where they took charge of a plantation, on which they carried on general farming and tobacco raising and there they spent the rest of their lives, and there the father of the subject of this sketch grew up, married and made his home until 1865, when he removed with his family of seven children to St. Joseph, Missouri, reaching there about the middle of April of that year. A few months later the family came on to Rulo, Nebraska, traveling up the Missouri river by boat. There they bought a team and drove to the present site of Verdon, Liberty precinct. William Wilkinson bought one hundred and sixty acres in Liberty precinct and by hard work and perseverance he developed a good farm from the raw prairie land, building first a small rude house, but later made excellent improvements on his place. He first rented the land where the present town of Verdon now stands, and in 1866 bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres for which he paid five hundred dollars. He broke ten acres of it with oxen, which, to a Kentuckian, looked like quite a large field, for he was of the old Southern type that wanted little more than a home and a living. However, he was a good business man and succeeded,





MR. AND MRS. THOMAS M. WILKINSON.





becoming well established here. He helped to organize the first district school of Liberty precinct. His nearest trading post was Brownville for years, which furnished a poor market for his products. He raised sheep in large numbers and in the fall of the year, after the annual shearing, would haul the wool to Oregon, Missouri, and sell it or exchange it for dress goods from which his wife made most of the clothing for their children. Soon after he established his home in this locality, now over a half century ago, Indians, sometimes numbering as many as five hundred in a band, would visit his home and often steal much of his belongings. But when he would come home and find them there he would not be long in driving them off his place. The Indians continued to linger in Richardson county until 1880.

Thomas M. Wilkinson assisted his father to develop the home farm in Liberty township and lived at home until he was twenty-one years old. He received such educational advantages as the pioneer schools afforded, remaining in school until he was eighteen years old; and then entered college at Peru, Nebraska, pursuing a general course. After finishing his education he returned home and engaged in farming until his marriage, in 1886, after which he went West and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Box Butte county, Nebraska, and also took up a tree claim and pre-empted. For some time he engaged in the cattle business there on an extensive scale, fencing sixteen sections for grazing purposes, not however without notifying the government of his act and of his willingness to remove the fencing upon its request. During his residence in Box Butte county he became owner of eight hundred and eighty acres and had a lease of three school sections. He bought and shipped cattle in large numbers to feeders. Selling out in 1902 he returned to Richardson county and bought the ranch he now owns, which consists of nine hundred acres in Grant and Nemaha townships, and he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and feeder on an extensive scale. He feeds about one hundred head of cattle annually and produces over four carloads of hogs annually. He lived on his farm until 1910, when he moved to Dawson, where he has since resided, owning a fine home there. His land is well improved and under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Wilkinson is a stockholder in the telephone and electric light companies at Dawson, also the Farmers Union and local grain elevator. He is a director in the telephone company and takes an active interest in local public affairs and aids in all movements having for their object the general welfare of his town, precinct and county. Politically, he is an independent Republican. He is a member of the Evangelical church and he belongs to the Inde-

pendent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Wilkinson has given evidence of his love of country by a liberal purchase of Liberty bonds and donated to the Red Cross movement. He is chairman of drainage district No. 1.

Mr. Wilkinson was married on March 6, 1886, to Arminta Triggs, who was born in Richardson county, where she was reared and educated. She is a daughter of Isaac and Lucinda (McGinnis) Triggs, natives of Ohio and Kentucky, respectively. Her parents came to Richardson county, this state, and here they were married and established their home and reared a family of four children.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson five children were born, named as follows: Roy, deceased; Edna, the wife of Guy Snethen and they live in Grant precinct on the Wilkinson ranch; Ethel, the wife of H. Auxier and they live in Grant precinct, and Laura and Alice, both at home.

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#### DAN J. RILEY.

Dan J. Riley, cashier of the Dawson Bank of Dawson, this county, was born in that village and has lived there all his life with the exception of about eight years during which time he was engaged in the practice of law at Omaha, returning to Dawson in 1908 to take the place of his late father in the bank. He was born on July 7, 1875, son of M. and Bridget (Ryan) Riley, natives of Ireland, who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their childhood, the families settling in Connecticut.

M. Riley was born in August, 1848, son of Bryan Riley, and he grew up in Connecticut, remaining there until 1867, when he came to Nebraska and settled on a farm in Grant precinct, this county, one of the first settlers in that precinct. When the Dawson townsite was laid out he moved to that place and there engaged in the lumber business, shortly afterward taking up the general mercantile business there, as a member of the firm of Mead, Riley & Company, which presently was succeeded by the firm of Mead & Riley, Mr. Riley later becoming sole proprietor. In 1887 he assisted in the organization of the Dawson Bank and was made cashier and active manager of the same, the affairs of the bank being carried on in his store, but in the early nineties the bank outgrew the store and he thereafter devoted his whole attention to the bank, which in 1895 erected its present substantial bank building, and Mr. Riley continued serving that bank as



cashier and manager until his death in April, 1908. From the days of the very beginning of Dawson M. Riley was one of the most active and influential factors in the affairs of that flourishing village and in addition to his extensive commercial and banking interests took an earnest interest in civic affairs, having served as a member of the town board, as a member of the school board and as village treasurer. He was an earnest member of the Catholic church and helped in the erection of four churches of that communion in Dawson, the first church erected by the Catholics there having been destroyed by fire, the second destroyed by a cyclone and the third destroyed by fire. To M. Riley and wife five children were born, namely: Dr. Bryan M. Riley, now located at Omaha; Dan J. Riley, the subject of this biographical sketch; Mary E., Nelle T. and Tom R., of Omaha, the latter of whom is president of the Bank of Florence.

Dan J. Riley grew up at Dawson and upon completing the course in the high school there entered St. Mary's College, from which he was graduated, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in 1896. Thus admirably equipped by preparatory study, he entered the law department of Nebraska State University and was graduated from that institution in 1900. In that same year he opened an office for the practice of his profession at Omaha and remained there until after his father's death in 1908, when he was elected cashier of the Dawson Bank and returned to his home village to take his father's place in the bank and has ever since been thus engaged, one of the best-known bankers in Richardson county. As noted above, the Bank of Dawson was established in 1887, the organizers being M. Riley, B. S. Chittenden, Daniel Riley, M. B. Ryan, Thomas Fenton, Morgan McSweeney and L. A. Ryan, with a paid-in capital of ten thousand dollars. The first officers of the bank were as follows: President, M. B. Ryan; vice-president, B. S. Chittenden; cashier, M. Riley, the directors being these officers and the others named in the above list. The present officers of the bank are as follow: President, Daniel Riley; vice-president, L. M. Ryan; cashier, Dan J. Riley; assistant cashier, Tom R. Riley, the board of directors including these officers and Bryan Riley and Thomas M. Ryan. The bank statement in March, 1917, revealed the bank's condition at that time as follows: Capital, \$25,000; surplus, \$26,000, and deposits, \$280,000.

In 1911 Dan J. Riley was united in marriage to Anna Rush, of Omaha, and to this union two children have been born, Nan and Michael Rush. Mr. and Mrs. Riley are members of the Catholic church and take an interested part in parish affairs, as well as in the general good works of the community and in the social and cultural activities of their home town.

Mr. Riley is a Republican and served as postmaster of Dawson from 1896 to 1900 and for three years was secretary of the State League of Republican Clubs. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and in the affairs of both of these organizations takes a warm interest.

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### ALBERT MAUST.

Albert Maust, dealer in grain and live stock at Falls City, proprietor of a string of prosperous elevators hereabout and an extensive landowner in Richardson county, was born at Falls City and has lived there all his life. He was born in a house which still stands two doors south of the Union Hotel on July 27, 1876, son of Elias A. and Savilla (Miller) Maust, pioneers of this county, both of whom were born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and who are still living at Falls City, which has been their place of residence since 1870.

Elias A. Maust, an honored veteran of the Civil War and for many years one of the leading citizens of Falls City, was born on a farm in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, March 23, 1839, son of Abraham and Magdaline (Longenecker) Maust, the former of whom was born in that same county in 1793 and the latter in 1795. Abraham Maust was a grandson of Jacob Mast, a native of Switzerland, who came to this country in Colonial days and settled in western Pennsylvania, where he reared a family of four sons and two daughters. The name in the next generation gradually came to be written Maust and has so continued. The immigrant, Jacob Mast, was a member of the Mennonite church and the family, which is now strongly represented in western Pennsylvania, has ever maintained the tenets of that simple faith. Abraham Maust became a farmer in Somerset county and there spent his last days, living to the great age of ninety-one years, eleven months and five days, the last sixteen years of his life being spent in suffering and in total blindness. He was married in 1817 to Magdaline Longenecker, who was one of the nine children born to Peter Longenecker and wife, also Mennonites and natives of Somerset county, and to that union were born fourteen children, nine sons and five daughters. The mother of these children died in 1854 and Abraham Maust later remarried, but that second union was without issue.

Reared on the home farm in his native county in western Pennsyl-



vania, Elias A. Maust received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant to his father and his brothers in the labors of improving and developing the home place, and was living there when the Civil War broke out. On October 24, 1862, he enlisted for service in Company K, One Hundred and Seventy-first Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and with that command served until it was mustered out ten months later. Upon the completion of his military service he returned to his home in Somerset county and after his marriage there in the fall of 1865 continued to make his home in that county, engaged in farming there for two years, at the end of which time he came West and located at Waterloo, Iowa, where he remained until 1870, when he came down into this part of Nebraska and became engaged in farming in the vicinity of Falls City. A year later he left the farm and moved to the then promising village of Falls City, where he erected a grain elevator, the first to be erected in this section of the state, and engaged in the grain business. He presently extended that business by adding coal and live stock to his line and it was not long until his business operations were extending over a broad field, and he continued actively engaged in that line of business until his eventual retirement. In 1891 he erected a handsome modern brick house one block east of Stone street and he and his wife are now living there. It was on November 27, 1865, that Elias A. Maust was united in marriage to Savilla Miller, who also was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, July 27, 1849, daughter of Moses W. and Catherine (Liven-good) Miller, and to this union three sons have been born, the subject of this sketch, the youngest, having had two brothers, one of whom, Irvine C. Maust, dealer in coal and ice at Falls City, is still living, and the other of whom, Norman, died in his first year.

Following his graduation from the Falls City high school, Albert Maust attended the Nebraska State University for three years and then began buying grain for his father and brother and was thus engaged for five or six years, or until his father's retirement from business, after which he remained associated with his brother in the business until 1911, when he began buying grain and live stock on his own account and has prospered in that line, now having four elevators, one at Falls City, one at Strausville, one at Verdon and one over the state line, in Reserve, Kansas. In addition to his extensive grain and live-stock interests Mr. Maust is the owner of fifteen or twenty houses in Falls City and has a valuable tract of sixty acres of land adjoining the city, for which he recently paid five hundred dollars an

acre. Mr. Maust is a Republican and has given considerable attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

On April 30, 1905, Albert Maust was united in marriage to Nancy Bryant, who was born at Adrian, Missouri, in 1886, daughter of Reuben and Marguerite (Cooper) Bryant, also natives of Missouri, who are now living at Drexel, that state, and to this union three children have been born, Maggie, who died in infancy; Ruth, born on July 2, 1910, and Albert, Jr., May 23, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Maust have a very pleasant home at Falls City and take a proper part in the general social activities of their home town. Mr. Maust is a Mason, affiliated with all the branches of that ancient order, and is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Knights of Pythias and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

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### NORMAN BENTON JUDD.

Norman Benton Judd, register of deeds for Richardson county, former county assessor and formerly and for years one of the best-known horse breeders in this part of Nebraska and a substantial farmer of the Dawson neighborhood, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of this county since 1882 and may therefore very properly be regarded as one of the old settlers of Richardson county. He was born on a farm in Marshall county, in the north central part of Illinois, March 8, 1851, son of John and Jane (Brown) Judd, the former of whom was a native of the North Carolina and the latter of Pennsylvania, whose last days were spent on that farm.

John Judd was born in Asheville, North Carolina, in June, 1825, a son of Thomas and Nancy (Darnell) Judd, natives of that same state, who moved to Marshall county, Illinois, in 1831, and settled on a tract of land they secured from the government and there spent the remainder of their lives, useful and influential pioneers of that section, Thomas Judd dying in 1850. The Judds are of English descent, the father of Thomas Judd having been an Englishman who settled in North Carolina upon coming to this country. John Judd was the fourth in order of birth of the ten children, five sons and five daughters, born to his parents and he was but six years of age when the family settled on the pioneer farm in Illinois. There he grew to manhood and married Jane Brown, who was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, in 1827, daughter of Charles Brown and



wife, the latter of whom was a Forsythe, natives, respectively, of Pennsylvania and of England, who moved from Pennsylvania to Illinois about 1830, also settling in Marshall county. After his marriage John Judd established his home on a farm in that county and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring in 1889 and hers in 1891. They were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having an elder brother, Leroy Judd, now living at Lincoln, this state, and a sister, Mrs. Theresa Galbraith, of McCallsburg, Iowa.

Reared on the home farm in Illinois, Norman B. Judd received his schooling in a little log school house in the neighborhood of his home, the school terms at that time being limited to twelve weeks in the year. From his boyhood he was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of the farm and remained at home until his marriage in 1871, he then being somewhat under twenty years of age, when he began farming on his own account, renting land in his home county, and there he continued farming until 1882, when he came to Nebraska and located at Dawson, this county, where he became engaged in the breeding of horses and soon had one of the best-established stables in this part of the state. Mr. Judd was the first man to bring into Richardson county pure-bred Clydesdale and English Shire horses and with this substantial type of sires he was soon successful in working a real revolution in the strain of horseflesh for general heavy draft and farm-purpose animals and the farmers of the county have often expressed to him their gratitude for the measures he thus early took to stock this region with these very desirable types. For twenty-two years Mr. Judd was engaged in horse breeding at Dawson and he made his home there for twenty-five years, or until 1907, in which year, as the nominee of the Democrats of Richardson county, he was elected county assessor. Upon entering upon the duties of that important office Mr. Judd moved to Falls City, the county seat, where he since has made his home. He served as assessor for five years and in 1915 was elected register of deeds, which office he now occupies, one of the most popular officials about the court house. Mr. Judd is a Democrat and has for years been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in this county. For twenty-two years he served as a member of the school board in Dawson district and during that long period of faithful service did much to advance the interests of the schools of that progressive little village. Mr. Judd is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, has held all the offices in the lodge with which he is affiliated and for fifteen years was "financier" of the same.

Norman B. Judd has been twice married. On February 8, 1871, he

was united in marriage to Charlotte Stratton, who was born in Indiana and who died in 1881, leaving two children, William O., who is now engaged in the hardware business at Atchison, Kansas, and Mrs. Ethel M. Crocker, of Omaha. On May 8, 1884, two years after coming to this county, Mr. Judd married, secondly, Alice McAvoy, who was also born in Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Judd are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in church work, as well as in the general good works of the community at large.

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### MARK J. DURFEE.

Mark J. Durfee, the proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty-six acres in section 28 of Arago precinct and one of the best-known farmers and stockmen in that part of the county, was born in Rulo precinct and has lived in this county all his life. He was born on January 12, 1874, son of Edmond J. and Della (Carr) Durfee, the former of whom, a native of Iowa and a pioneer of Richardson county, is still living, now a resident of Falls City and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume.

When nine years of age Mark J. Durfee met with a serious accident which interfered much with his schooling. He stepped in a hole in a plank floor and so seriously injured his left leg that for nine years he was crippled, a part of that time being spent in a hospital at St. Joseph. He grew to manhood on the home farm near the Missouri river and in time became a farmer on his own account, renting a farm. His father gave him eighty acres of land, he having previously bought an adjoining eighty and a little more, now moving a well improved and profitably cultivated farm of one hundred and sixty-six acres. In 1912 he erected his present handsome residence and he and his family are very comfortably situated. For years Mr. Durfee was an extensive breeder of Shorthorn cattle, but of late years has not done so much in the way of live stock, giving his particular attention to grain farming.

On February 8, 1900, Mark J. Durfee was united in marriage to Edna E. McWain, who was born at Rulo, this county, May 23, 1884, daughter of Edgar E. and Martha (Marcum) McWain, natives, respectively, of New York and of Missouri, pioneers of Richardson county, the former of whom, a carpenter and farmer, died in 1906, at the age of forty-five years, and the latter of whom is now living with her son, Olin McWain, in the Rulo neigh-





MR. AND MRS. MARK J. DURFEE.





borhood, and to that union were born seven children, Clarence, Gertrude, Everett, Ethel, Lila, Harold and Raymond. The mother of these children died on October 23, 1916. Mr. Durfee is an "independent" in his political views. He takes an active interest in the agricultural affairs of this section and is a member of the Farmers Union and of the Central Protective Association, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### WILLIAM L. REDWOOD.

William L. Redwood, of Falls City, manager of the Home Building and Loan Association of that city and actively engaged there in the real estate, loans and insurance business, is a native of the neighboring state of Iowa, but has been a resident of this county since he was four years of age, and has therefore been a witness to the development of this region since pioneer days. He was born on a farm in Clay county, Iowa, March 9, 1875, son of Stewart L. and Mary K. (Stutson) Redwood, who became pioneer residents of Richardson county and the latter of whom is still living, a resident of Falls City, where she is very comfortably and very pleasantly situated.

The late Stewart L. Redwood, an honored veteran of the Civil War and for years one of the best-known and influential residents of Richardson county, was born in New York City on December 14, 1844, son of William R. Redwood, who was of English descent, and who married a lady of English birth. Stewart L. was reared in the vicinity of the metropolis, where he was living when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted for service in 1863 as a member of Company A, Eighth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, and with that command served until the close of the war. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Redwood completed his schooling and then for a time was engaged as a clerk in a drug store, but presently decided to come West and "grow up with the country." He proceeded on out to Iowa and in Clay county, that state, exercised his soldier's right to homestead, entering a tract of land in that county, upon which he established his home after his marriage which took place shortly after he had located there. There he remained until 1878, in which year he disposed of his holdings in Iowa and moved to Texas. He did not remain long in the latter state, however, presently moving thence to Missouri, but he found conditions there no more to his liking than he had found in Texas and in 1879 he came over into Nebraska and settled on a farm in the pre-

cinct of Speiser, this county, later moving to another place in the precinct of Nemaha, on which later place he remained until 1907, in which year he retired from the farm and moved to Falls City, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there on August 31, 1916. During his residence on the farm in this county Mr. Redwood had been developing a quite extensive real-estate and loan business and after his removal to Falls City devoted his time in great part to that line. In addition to his land holdings in this county he was the owner of land in Kansas and in Gage county, this state. Politically, he was a Democrat, by religious persuasion an Episcopalian and, fraternally, was affiliated with the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Since his death his widow has continued to reside in Falls City, where she has a very pleasant home. She was born, Mary K. Stutson, at Flint, Michigan, December 21, 1851, daughter of Lester P. Stutson, who later moved to Iowa, where she was living at the time of her marriage to Mr. Redwood. To that union two children were born, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Eleanor M., who is making her home with her mother in Falls City.

William L. Redwood was but a child when he came to this county with his parents and he grew up on the home farm receiving his schooling in the district schools in that neighborhood and in the high school at Falls City. From the days of his boyhood he was a valuable assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home place and also early became interested with his father in the latter's real-estate and loan undertakings. When the family moved to Falls City he gave his whole attention to this business and since his father's death has been carrying on the business alone, having built up a valuable connection in that line, becoming one of the well-known real-estate, loan and insurance agents in this part of the state. Mr. Redwood also is manager of the Home Building and Loan Association of Falls City and in that connection has done much to advance the building interests of his home city. He is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office. In addition to his business interests Mr. Redwood is the owner of an eighty-acre farm in this county and some city property, besides stock in the State Bank of Falls City, and is accounted as one of the city's progressive and public-spirited citizens.

On October 2, 1901, William L. Redwood was united in marriage to Lucy M. Bacon, of Middleburg, Nemaha precinct, this county, daughter of Asa Bacon, a former well-known resident of this county, now living in



Woodson county, Kansas, and to this union have been born four daughters, Agnes, Flora, Irene and Alice. Mr. and Mrs. Redwood have a very pleasant home at Falls City and take a proper part in the general social and cultural activities of their home town and of the community at large. They were members of the Christian church and Mr. Redwood was a member of the executive committee of the local congregation when the present splendid edifice of the Christian church was erected at Falls City. He is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

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### WILSON S. KORNER.

The late Wilson S. Korner, for years one of Richardson county's best-known and most substantial landowners, grain buyers and merchants, who died at his home in Falls City in the summer of 1913, an honored veteran of the Civil War, whose widow is still living at Falls City, was a native of the old Buckeye state, but had been a resident of this county since 1871 and was therefore very properly entitled to be regarded as one of the old settlers of the county. He was born on a farm in Seneca county, in the north central part of Ohio, May 18, 1844, son of Levi and Elizabeth (Stout) Korner, natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in Union county on January 8, 1813, whose last days were spent in Ohio, the former being past sixty years of age at the time of his death. Levi Korner was twice married and by his second wife, Elizabeth Stout, was the father of four children, of whom the subject of this memorial sketch was the eldest.

Reared on the home farm in Seneca county, Ohio, Wilson S. Korner received his schooling in the schools of his home neighborhood and was living there when the Civil War broke out. When eighteen years of age, in 1862, he enlisted for service in the Union army and went to the front as a private in Company D, Thirty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and with that command served until the close of the war, receiving his discharge on July 3, 1865. During that period of service Mr. Korner participated in some of the bloodiest battles of the war, including those of the siege of Vicksburg, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Chancellorsville and Chattanooga, and for some time was a prisoner of war, detained in Libby Prison.

Upon the completion of his military service Wilson S. Korner returned

to his home in Ohio and was there married in December, 1866. After his marriage he continued farming there until in February, 1871, when he came to Nebraska and established his home in Richardson county, he having previously bought a quarter of a section of land one and one-half miles west of Falls City. He improved that farm, set out a grove and there remained until the year 1876, when he moved to Falls City and became engaged as grain buyer for the Heacock Milling Company, later engaging in the hardware business in that city and in this latter enterprise continued successfully engaged until a few years before his death, his death occurring in Falls City on July 2, 1913. During his later years he served as president of the Southeastern Nebraska Telephone Company. Mr. Korner was a Republican, a Methodist and a Mason. He had become a Mason in the lodge at Bellevue, Ohio, during the days of his young manhood and never transferred his membership from the same.

On December 16, 1866, Wilson S. Korner was united in marriage to Adaline Schock, who was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, April 17, 1846, daughter of William and Sarah (Heater) Schock, who were married on February 9, 1843. William Schock was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, February 21, 1821, and died at his home in Falls City, Nebraska, November 27, 1901. He was a successful farmer in Ohio and in 1875 retired from farming and came to Nebraska, thereafter making his home in Falls City and spent his last days at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Korner, at Falls City. He became a substantial landowner in Richardson county, served for some time as vice-president and later as president of the Richardson County Bank and was a member of the board of directors of the local cemetery association from the time of its organization until his death. He was a member of the Methodist church and took an active interest in local charity work. His wife was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, September 6, 1824, and died at Falls City on January 12, 1893. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Korner was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Elizabeth, widow of N. Stewart, living near Seneca, Kansas; George W., of Falls City; Charles, deceased; Amanda, wife of R. A. Stetler, of Long Beach, California; Mrs. Ida Holland, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume; William A., a substantial farmer of the precinct of Falls City, this county, and Lincoln, deceased.

To Wilson S. and Adaline (Schock) Korner one child was born, a daughter, Ethel, who married H. Morrow, now of Charlotte, North Carolina, and has one child, a daughter, Lucretia, born in 1903. Both the Korner and the Schock families have preserved a chronological history of the respec-



tive families, dating back in Germany and in Switzerland to royal lines. Mrs. Korner is the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of land in King county, Kansas, and two modern houses in Falls City. She is an active member of the Methodist church and of the local corps of the Woman's Relief Corps, as well as a member of various clubs and social societies in Falls City and has for years been one of the most influential workers in the social and cultural activities of that city, helpful in many ways in promoting movements designed to advance the common welfare.

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### WILSON MEEKS MADDOX.

The late Wilson M. Maddox, who died at his home in Falls City in January 24, 1903, and who for years was one of the most prominent citizens of that place, a well-to-do merchant, an honored veteran of the Civil War, former sheriff of Richardson county, a former deputy United States marshal, a member of the Nebraska territorial Legislature back in 1854-55 and one of the real pioneers of this state, was a native of the old Buckeye state, but had been a resident of Nebraska since back in the middle fifties and had consequently seen this state develop from its original wilderness to its present highly-developed condition. He and his wife were the first couple married in the region now comprised within the bounds of Richardson county and his widow, who is still living, an honored resident of Falls City, has many a thrilling tale to tell of conditions here back in the days of the Indians and of the unbroken plains.

Wilson M. Maddox was born in Hillsboro, Highland county, Ohio, August 5, 1825, a son of Michael and Frances (Schoolmaker) Maddox, natives of Virginia, who moved to Ohio in 1800 and who later moved with their family from Ohio to Indiana in 1837. The Maddox family is one of the oldest families in America, the first Maddox to come here having been a member of the second colony of Pilgrims that settled in New England in 1621. Wilson M. Maddox was but a boy when his parents moved from Ohio to Indiana and in the latter state he grew to manhood and married Mary Blount, who died shortly afterward. In 1853 he sold his farm in Indiana and moved to Pella, Iowa. In 1854 he came West and located at the then frontier town of Nebraska City, which at that time was becoming a promising river town. Mr. Maddox was a man of energy and push, had received a good education and upon locating in the frontier town immediately began taking

an active part in public affairs. In that same year he was elected a member of the first Nebraska territorial Legislature and served in the session of that year and in the session of 1855, doing well his part in the then initial legislative affairs of what then was a vast territory extending from the Territory of Kansas to the Dominion of Canada and to the Rockies on the west, which in 1854 had been created a territory as distinctive from all that vague and almost wholly unexplored region theretofore known as the Indian country. In 1856 he moved to Richardson county. Mr. Maddox had given considerable study to the law and for some time after settling in Nebraska City and later after coming down to this county, was admitted to the bar in 1871, and practiced law, becoming one of the best-known and most influential residents of this country in the pioneer days. He took an active part in the work of the upbuilding of Nebraska City and as a real-estate agent did a valuable work in helping to locate homesteaders throughout this state when the tide of immigration presently began definitely to set in out this way. In the fall of 1855 he married, secondly, in the village of Archer, the first county seat of Richardson county, but continued to make his home in Nebraska City until the following May, when he came down the river and pre-empted a tract of land near the home of his wife's father, Judge Miller, a member of the Archer townsite company and the first probate judge of Richardson county, and established his home there, remaining on the farm, to which he added other land, until after the close of the war, when he moved to Falls City, where he spent the remainder of his life.

In 1862 Wilson M. Maddox enlisted for service in the Union army as a member of the Fourth Missouri Cavalry and was made a lieutenant of his company, which was mustered in at St. Joseph, and with which he served for a year, principally on cavalry outpost duty, at the end of which time, on account of physical disability, he resigned his commission and returned home, as noted above, moving to Falls City in 1865. For a number of years thereafter Mr. Maddox was engaged in mercantile business and was then elected sheriff of Richardson county in 1864, in which capacity he served for two years. He later was appointed deputy United States marshal for this district and in that capacity served for two years, in the meantime continuing his law practice and also continuing engaged more or less in the trading and real-estate way. In 1871 he was again chosen a member of the Legislature. Mr. Maddox finally engaged in the hardware business at Falls City and continued thus quite successfully engaged until his retirement in 1893. He died at his home in that city on January 24, 1903, being then past seventy-eight years of age. Mr. Maddox was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as



is his widow, and was an active Freemason, having joined the Masonic order before his enlistment in the army, and was a charter member of the first lodge of Freemasons organized in Richardson county. He took an earnest interest in both church and lodge affairs and was ever helpful in all local good works, doing much in his long and active life to promote the interests of his home town in a religious, social, commercial and cultural way.

As noted above, Wilson M. Maddox and his wife were the first white couple married within the present precincts of Richardson county. It was on October 4, 1855, that Mr. Maddox was united in marriage, at old Archer, first county seat of Richardson county, to Margaret A. Miller, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. W. D. Gage, a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal church at Nebraska City, whose daughter had married a brother of Mrs. Maddox. Mrs. Maddox, who is still living at her pleasant home in Falls City, is a native of Kentucky, born in Knox county, that state, February 4, 1835, daughter of Judge John C. and Elizabeth (Campbell) Miller, the latter of whom was born in that same county, not far from Cumberland Gap. Judge John C. Miller, one of the earliest and most influential pioneers of Richardson county, was a native of South Carolina, born in 1804. He was married in Kentucky and continued to make his home there until 1845, when he came West with his family and settled in Lafayette county, Missouri; later he settled at Rockport, Atchison county, Missouri, moving thence, in 1855, across the river into the then newly created Territory of Nebraska and settling on a tract of land he had pre-empted at the site of what presently came to be the first county seat of this county. He was a member of the Archer townsite company, helped lay out the town, which long since has lost its place on the map, and was the first probate judge of the county when Richardson county presently was organized as a civic unit, and for years took a prominent part in the early affairs of this county, further mention of which is made in the historical section of this work. One of his daughters, Mary, married the first sheriff of the county, Elias McMullen. Judge Miller and wife were the parents of twelve children, those besides Mrs. Maddox being as follow: Mrs. Harriet Catron, deceased; James F., Union veteran, deceased; George W., deceased; Mary K., wife of Will Maddox, deceased; Mrs. China M. Thompson, deceased; William S., who is now living in Oklahoma; Robert O., who died in 1916; Clay, Sarah and Laura, who died in infancy, and John J., who served in the Union army and died in the service.

To Wilson M. and Margaret A. (Miller) Maddox six children were born, namely: Frances E., wife of John W. Powell, of Falls City; May, who is now at home; Mrs. Anna L. Crum, of Montpelier, Indiana; Zillah,

wife of George Dietsch, of Hastings, this state; Oscar H., of Missoula, Montana, and Grace, who is at home with her mother. Mrs. Maddox has a very pleasant home at Falls City and is quite comfortably situated in the beautiful "evening time of her life." She has five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, Mrs. Powell having one child, a daughter, Lela, who married James Mullen and has a daughter, Marjorie Frances; Mrs. Crum, one daughter, Floss; Mrs. Dietsch, one daughter, Margaret, born in Falls City, and Oscar H. Maddox, two sons, Wilson M. and James Frederick. Though now in the eighty-third year of her age, Mrs. Maddox is vigorous mentally and physically and retains vivid recollections of the pioneer days hereabout, she having lived here since the days when this was practically all Indian country. She was nineteen years of age when she came here with her parents back in territorial days and she recalls having ridden over the country from old Archer west to the present limits of the county, without seeing a house throughout the trip. She rode horseback from Archer to Salem to go to church and often took long horseback trips attending camp meetings; but, despite the romantic glamor in which the memory of those distant days of the free days of the open range and the wild life of the plains is set, she is quite content to do her riding in an automobile nowadays, and rejoices as she rides abroad to note the amazing progress which has been made in all ways throughout this region since she came here, a pioneer lass from the hills of her native Kentucky.

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• FRANK A. NIMS.

Not too often can we of the present generation revert to the lives of the sterling pioneers who, by their heroic courage and self-sacrifice, paved the way for our own modern civilization, making possible our fine farms and thriving towns. One of these sturdy men in Richardson county, who is deserving of special attention here, is Frank A. Nims, now living in retirement in his cosy home in Falls City, after a life of successful endeavor of forty years in this locality.

Mr. Nims was born in Waupun, Wisconsin, August 17, 1863. He is a son of John and Betsey (Bacon) Nims. The father was born in 1829, and was a son of Luther Nims, whose death occurred in 1864 at the age of thirty-nine years. John Nims was one of the early settlers of Waupun, Wisconsin. His death occurred in New York state while on a visit to his old home. His wife was a native of Cattaraugus county, New York, and was of English





MR. AND MRS. FRANK A. NIMS.





descent, her ancestors having come to America in Colonial days. Betsey (Bacon) Nims was born on January 8, 1831, and died March 10, 1912, in Falls City, Nebraska. She was a daughter of Leander and Sarah (Hilbert) Bacon, natives of the state of New York and early settlers in the vicinity of Waupun, Wisconsin. After the death of John Nims, his widow moved with her only child, Frank A. Nims, of this sketch, to Crawford county, Pennsylvania, the mother teaching school there several years; then moved to Ohio in 1867 and taught one term in Ashtabula county, where her father, Leander Bacon resided. Leander Bacon had sold out in Wisconsin and had located in Ashtabula county, Ohio, where he operated a large dairy farm and manufactured cheese. Mrs. Nims assisted him in the manufacture of cheese for some time. In 1874 she and her son came to Nebraska, seeking a new location. Two years later they located in Richardson county, buying a farm in Nemaha precinct, where the mother made cheese for the market for a number of years, the son, Frank A., taking care of the herd of cattle which they kept on the home place. He was thirteen years old when they built a comfortable residence on the place, also made other improvements. They were successful in their farming and dairying operations, and when he became of legal age the son took charge of the farm, which consisted of four hundred acres of good land. They sold two hundred and forty acres, keeping the west one hundred and sixty acres. One hundred and sixty acres were sold to Willard Burgett and eighty acres to Walter Colson. Part of the remaining quarter section of land became the site of the village of Nims city. Mr. Nims continued active farming with uniform success until September 8, 1911. He raised cattle on an extensive scale; he also raised good horses. He remodeled his dwelling, making it both convenient and attractive.

Mr. Nims was married on September 8, 1884, to Etta Archer, who was born in Nemaha county, Kansas, a daughter of Jerome Archer and Althea (Westcott) Archer, natives of Pennsylvania. They were early settlers in Nemaha county, Kansas. Jerome Archer came to Kansas in 1859 and died in January, 1915. Mrs. Archer, who resides in southern Kansas, was born September, 1842.

Politically, Mr. Nims is a Republican and fraternally he belongs to the Knights and Ladies of Security, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the German Hall. He has lived to see Richardson county developed from a wild state, a vast, little-improved plains country to its present-day prosperity and wealth and he has played well his part in this great transformation.

## JOHN PHILPOT.

John Philpot, well-known farmer and poultryman at Humboldt and a resident of this county since 1877, is a native of Ohio, born on March 9, 1860, son of Robert and Susan (West) Philpot, also natives of that state, who came to Nebraska in 1882 and settled on a farm two miles south of Humboldt, where Robert Philpot died in 1899. John Philpot was the fifth in order of birth of the nine children born to his parents, the others being as follow: James, also of Humboldt; S. M., a former well-known lumberman of Humboldt, now deceased; Mrs. Belle Adams, of Ohio; Hugh, who died on his farm six miles north of Humboldt and whose widow is still living there; William, a carpenter at Humboldt; Mrs. Tina Crawford, of Montana; Mrs. Lizzie Cope, of Humboldt, and Charles, who died at the age of twenty-one years.

When John Philpot was seventeen years of age he left his home in Ohio and came West, locating in Richardson county, where he has lived ever since, with the exception of three years spent in Colorado. It was in 1877 that he arrived here and upon his arrival he began working as a farm laborer and was thus engaged until his marriage in 1886, when he rented a farm and began farming on his own account, remaining on that place until 1909, when he bought an eighty-acre farm northeast of Humboldt and lived there until he traded that place for a twenty-acre tract adjoining the city, where he since has made his home. In 1914 he erected a handsome residence there and he and his family are very comfortably situated. In addition to his general farming Mr. Philpot for some years gave particular attention to the raising of live stock and did quite well in that line. Since taking up his residence at the north edge of town he has given much attention to the raising of poultry, with particular reference to the Rose Comb and Brown Leghorn varieties and has built up quite an extensive poultry concern there. He and his nephew, Ralph R. Philpot, have lately engaged in the fence-post business on quite an extensive scale, utilizing grown-up hedge timber for this purpose, and have developed quite a profitable business in that line, also doing quite a business in cordwood. Mr. Philpot is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

In 1886 John Philpot was united in marriage to Anna Leatherman, who was born in Indiana in 1866, daughter of Washington and Useba (Sinford) Leatherman, the latter of whom died in Indiana, Washington Leatherman later coming to Nebraska and settling in Richardson county, his daughter.



Anna, keeping house for him here until her marriage to Mr. Philpot. Mrs. Philpot has three brothers, Edward, now living in Colorado; Fred, who is engaged in the live-stock business in Indiana, and Daniel, now a resident of Dunavant, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Philpot have six children, namely: May, who married Frank Fergus, of the precinct of Porter, this county, and has three children, Frank, Earl and Margaret; Iva, who married Archie Yarling, also of Porter precinct, and has one child, a daughter, Bernice; Fay, who married Laurence Oberly, also of Porter precinct; Effie, wife of Paul Moritz, of Porter precinct, and Thelma and Enid, who are still at home with their parents. The Philpots are members of the Presbyterian church and take a warm interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general good works and social activities of their home town and the community at large. Mr. Philpot is a member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes an active interest in the affairs of the same.

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#### JAMES F. KELLY, M. D.

Dr. James F. Kelly, well-known young physician of Dawson, is a native of the city of Boston, but is a product of the West, having been reared and educated at Omaha. He was born at Boston on February 1, 1891, while his parents, residents of Iowa, were in that city. His father, John Kelly, was reared in Ireland and when a young man came to this country, in the early eighties, and made his way to Des Moines, Iowa, where he presently married and made his home. During the Cleveland administration he became connected with the postal service, with headquarters at Omaha, and it was while thus engaged that he returned East with his wife, and made a stay of one year in Boston, Massachusetts, during which residence the subject of this review was born. John Kelly died at Omaha on February 14, 1892, and his widow is now living in Iowa. She was born, Margaret Meade, in the state of New York, daughter of John Meade, a native of Ireland, who came to this country, locating in New York and moving thence to Iowa, homesteading a tract of land in Johnson county in 1850 and becoming a large landowner.

Reared at Omaha, James F. Kelly received his early schooling in the parochial schools of that city, supplementing the same by a course in the Creighton high school and university. He then entered Creighton Medical College and was graduated from that institution in 1915. Upon receiving his

diploma Doctor Kelly received the appointment as an interne in St. Joseph's hospital at Tacoma, Washington, and was later made an interne in St. Joseph's hospital at Omaha, thus receiving some excellent practical experience in the practice of his profession before actively engaging in that practice. On August 1, 1916, the Doctor located at Dawson, where he opened an office for the practice of his profession and where he already has built up an extensive practice. He is a member of the Richardson County Medical Society and of the Nebraska State Medical Association and in the deliberations of these bodies takes an active interest. Politically, the Doctor is a Democrat, but on local issues is inclined to be "independent." He is a member of the Catholic church and takes a proper interest in parish affairs, while, fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Columbus and of the medical Greek-letter fraternity, Phi Iota Sigma.

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#### GEORGE E. TAYLOR.

The late George E. Taylor, for years one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Arago precinct, this county, and an honored veteran of the Civil War, who died in 1912, was a native of Illinois, but had been a resident of this section of the country since 1868. He was born on a farm in the neighborhood of Mason City, Illinois, February 28, 1843, son of Jesse and Mary (Harding) Taylor, and was the eldest of the ten children born to that parentage, eight sons and two daughters. Jesse Taylor was a native of Illinois and his wife was a native of Virginia. About 1885 they came to this county and located at Rulo, where their last days were spent.

George E. Taylor was reared on the home farm in the vicinity of Mason City, Illinois, and was living there when the Civil War broke out, he then being eighteen years of age. One day in 1861, not long after the first call for volunteers, he drove to town with a load of wheat, completed the business transaction and then went to the recruiting station and enlisted his services in behalf of the Union. He went to the front as a member of Company F, Eighth Illinois Regiment, Volunteer Infantry, and with that command served until he was honorably discharged following a serious wound received at the battle of Shiloh. From the battlefield at Shiloh he was removed to a camp hospital, whence, after he had recovered sufficiently to endure a transfer, he was removed to his home by his parents, who had come after him.

Upon the completion of his military service George E. Taylor remained



on the home farm in Illinois until 1868, when he came out to this part of the country and bought a tract of three hundred acres of land one mile north of Hiawatha and proceeded to improve the same, making the town his place of residence. He later traded that farm for property in Rulo, this county, and while living there, in 1871, was married, presently selling his town property and moving to the farm in section 36 of the precinct of Arago, on which he spent the remainder of his life, becoming a substantial and well-to-do farmer, his death occurring there on February 10, 1912. Mr. Taylor was an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the affairs of which patriotic organization he took a warm interest and was also a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On March 19, 1871, not long after coming to this county, George E. Taylor was united in marriage to Sophronia Elshire, who was born in Madison county, Indiana, May 4, 1848, daughter of Ephraim and Maria (Hoppes) Elshire, also natives of Indiana, who were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Taylor was the third in order of birth. Ephraim Elshire came to Nebraska with his family in 1860 and settled on a brush-land farm in the precinct of Arago, this county, where he built a log cabin, broke up his land with oxen and established his home, eventually prospering so largely that he became the owner of a tract of four hundred acres of choice land in that precinct. In the division of the Elshire estate Mrs. Taylor became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of that farm, which she still owns, besides her home farm of five hundred and ten acres in section 36. Ephraim Elshire, who was born in 1820, died at his home in this county on March 14, 1897. His widow survived him a little less than a year, her death occurring on February 7, 1898. She was born in 1823. For some time after coming out to this part of the country Ephraim Elshire was employed as a freighter on the old trail from St. Joseph to Denver, in the company of such other well-known plainsmen as James Hosford, Louis Phillips and Charles Gagnon, also of Rulo.

To George E. and Sophronia (Elshire) Taylor were born six children, namely: Mrs. Bertha Rickard, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Gertrude Kanaly, wife of Martin Kanaly, a farmer, of Falls City, this county; Mrs. Jessie Keobrich, of Atchison, Kansas; Edward Taylor, of Cleveland, Ohio; Fred Taylor, of Falls City, and George Taylor, who is managing the home place for his mother. Mrs. Taylor is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was her husband, and has ever taken an active part in the good works of the community in which she has lived since pioneer days.

## JOHN LICHTY.

John Lichty, of Falls City, secretary and manager of the Richardson County Farmers Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Company of Falls City and former representative from this district to the Nebraska state Legislature, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of this county since 1870 and may therefore very properly be regarded as one of the "old settlers" of Richardson county. He was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, April 21, 1851, son of Solomon and Mary (Meyers) Lichty, both natives of that same state, of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, who emigrated to Illinois in 1856 and settled on a farm in Carroll county, that state, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

John Lichty was but five years of age when his parents moved from Pennsylvania to Illinois and in the latter state he grew to manhood, reared on a farm and receiving his schooling in the public schools. There he continued to reside until he was nineteen years of age, when, in 1870, he came to Nebraska, having borrowed one hundred and fifty dollars with which to make the trip to Falls City and enable him to look about a bit with a view to getting a Nebraska farm. He was so well pleased with conditions here that almost immediately after his arrival here he bought a small farm in the precinct of Ohio, eight miles northeast of Falls City, proceeded to develop the same and after his marriage in the fall of 1873 established his home there. From the very beginning of his farming operations in this county Mr. Lichty prospered and as he did so gradually added to his land holdings in Ohio precinct until he became the owner of a well-improved and profitably cultivated farm of five hundred and twenty acres there, and there he made his home until his retirement from the active labors of the farm and removal in 1900 to Falls City, where he has since made his home and where he and his wife are very comfortably situated. Since his retirement Mr. Lichty has disposed of his old home farm to his children, but is still the owner of eighty acres in the precinct of Barada, of two hundred and fifteen acres in Brown county, Kansas, and a fine bearing apple orchard of thirty-five acres. Mr. Lichty is a Bryan Democrat and an ardent supporter of the Nebraska "drys," an earnest advocate of state-wide prohibition. In 1900, the year of his removal to Falls City, he was elected to represent this district in the Nebraska General Assembly and in the session of 1901 rendered admirable service in the House, one of the committees on which he served having been the important committee on judiciary. He and his wife are members of the Brethren church and have ever given their earnest attention to community good works.



It was on November 13, 1873, about three years after his arrival in this county, that John Lichty was united in marriage to Ann Ashenfelter, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of Josiah and Margaret Ashenfelter, natives of Pennsylvania, who had settled in Illinois and who afterward came to Nebraska, and to this union six children have been born namely: Albert H., who was graduated from Ashland College, later took up the work of the Young Men's Christian Association, in which work he displayed such marked ability that he was rapidly advanced and is now the state secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association in the state of Ohio, with offices in Columbus; Lillie Alverta, a professional nurse, who is the wife of C. W. Stump, of Hastings, this state; Frank S., who now owns and operates the old homestead farm in Ohio precinct; Daniel J., who died at the age of three years; Guy C., who is farming in the precinct of Barada, and Esta Marie, now a student in Ashland College (Ohio), a member of the class of 1918.

It was in 1916 that John Lichty became secretary of the Richardson County Farmers Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Company, succeeding his brother, the late Samuel Lichty, to that position. He had for years had an active interest in that company and since taking up his secretarial duties has been virtually office manager of the concern, one of the best-established local mutual insurance companies in the state. This company was organized in June, 1887, the late Samuel Lichty having been the practical promoter of the same and a leader in the movement that led to the general introduction of such companies in this state, for it was he who wrote the bill that was introduced in the Legislature by Representative Gerdes, then representative from this district, and the enactment of which paved the way for the organization of mutual insurance companies in Nebraska. Samuel Lichty also organized the Nebraska Mutual Insurance Company, which provides fire, lightning and cyclone insurance, the Richardson county company writing its storm insurance, through its secretary, John Lichty, in this latter company. Later a company of retired farmers in Falls City and property owners there organized the Dwelling House Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Nebraska, for the purpose of insuring city dwellings, barns and private residences against loss by fire, and Mr. Lichty also writes insurance for this company, which has many patrons throughout the county. The Richardson county company, which was formally incorporated under the laws of the state in 1891, and which originally was backed by Samuel Lichty, I. W. Harris, George Abbott and George Watkins, began business with the aim of eventually writing one hundred thousand dollars in insurance, but that figure was passed

within a few months and the company has now more than one thousand policy holders and has in force more than two million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars of insurance. It is an assessment company and the losses are so almost wholly negligible that in 1916 a levy of two mills covered all assessments against the policy holders. The present officers of the company are as follow: President, N. D. Auxier, of Salem; secretary, John Lichty; treasurer, Joshua Bloom, of Verdon, and directors, besides the above-named officers, John Ahern, of Shubert; Martin Nolte, of Falls City; S. H. Knisley, of Falls City; J. A. Hartman, of Rulo; Gus Duerfeldt, of Barada; R. R. Draper, of Dawson; John Hollecheck, of Humboldt, and E. E. Ewing, of Verdon.

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#### ANDREW TYNAN.

During his long and active career in this county there were few men better known in this part of Nebraska than was the late Andrew Tynan, veteran plainsman, "bull-whacker", pioneer merchant, farmer, stockman and politician, who died at his home in Stella in the summer of 1912, and there have been few hereabout whose names are held in better memory than his. A native of Ireland, he came to this country alone as a poor, ignorant boy of thirteen and by his own indomitable energy rose to a position of influence in the community in which he settled in pioneer days and attained a degree of financial competence that must have been beyond the wildest dreams of the immigrant lad who left his native Kilkenny and faced the shores of the new country on this side the Atlantic back in the forties. Big, generous and whole-hearted in his operations, he did on a large scale what he had to do and was successful in his various undertakings, leaving a handsome estate to his family, and his widow, who is still living at Stella, very comfortably situated in the pleasant "evening time" of her life. Unable to acquire an education in his youth, Andrew Tynan took the time out of his busy life, after he was grown, to school himself in all the essentials of a common-school education and there was no more ardent champion of the cause of good schools in Richardson county than was he. An equally ardent temperance advocate he was a tireless worker in the anti-liquor cause and the saloon in Nebraska had no more fearless opponent than he, his influence and activities in that behalf doing much for the cause of temperance in this part of the state. Generous to a fault, he was ever open-handed in his contributions to all worthy local causes and when solicited for subscriptions to





MR. AND MRS. ANDREW TYNAN.





charitable objects simply gave money outright, if the object appealed to his sense of fitness. Originally a Republican, Mr. Tynan later became a Democrat and for years was one of the leaders of that party in this county and a familiar figure and a power in county, district and state conventions. Though often importuned by his friends in the party to accept nominations to office, he invariably declined to be so considered and was not an office holder, believing that his influence in behalf of good government and better citizenship could better and more effectively be exerted from the ranks, and it is undoubted that he did exert a fine influence in the cause of right and justice in the community he had seen develop from pioneer days. A plainsman in the old days of the overland freighters, he became thoroughly familiar with conditions out here in the days of the old wagon trails and the open plain and there were few men of that old, interesting and picturesque group that were better or more widely known than he, so that at the time of his passing in the summer of 1912 there was sincere mourning in many a heart among the old settlers hereabout.

Andrew Tynan was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland, March 8, 1833, and he remained in his native land until he was thirteen years of age, when, in 1846, he set out alone for this country, landing in due time a friendless lad at the port of New York. In that city and in a suburb thereof he remained for some little time, working at such jobs as his hand could find to do, until he had earned enough money to bring him out to the great West country of which he had heard so much and which his unerring instinct told him was the place in which to develop the talents he felt inherent within him, and he made his way to Iowa, locating at Winterset, in Madison county, that state. In the vicinity of that place he found employment as a farm hand at a wage of twelve dollars a month and there remained for several years, managing out of his wages to save about one hundred dollars a year. He then, in the late fifties, came over into the then Territory of Nebraska and located at Nemaha, where he presently became engaged on a freighting crew and for some years thereafter was thus engaged, becoming one of the best-known plainsmen on the old overland trails to Salt Lake, Denver, and New Mexico. As an associate of Francis Withee, the famous plainsman and freighter, Mr. Tynan had many exciting and interesting experiences and in after years his tales of those days never failed to gain the interested attention of the younger generation. After some years of this form of experience, Mr. Tynan decided to settle down and with that end in view became engaged in the mercantile business at Peru, in association with E. W. Holly, and from

the beginning of that undertaking was very successful and while living there was married in 1868. In the meantime he had invested in a tract of land in the precinct of Muddy, in this county, and when presently his life in the store became unbearably irksome for him—his old open life on the plains having spoiled him as an in-door man—he left the store and in 1875 settled permanently on his farm in this county, with which he had kept in touch for years and on which he had already seen to the making of many substantial improvements. Upon locating on the farm Mr. Tynan made other and more extensive improvements and it was not long until he had there one of the best-developed farms in Richardson county. He also engaged extensively in the raising of cattle and as his operations in this line increased added to his land holdings until he became the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres of land and was accounted one of the well-to-do men of this section of the state, leaving, as noted above, a fine estate at the time of his death on June 5, 1912; his death occurring at his home in Stella, to which place he had moved at the time of his retirement from the farm in 1897.

On October 8, 1868, Andrew Tynan was united in marriage to Eleanor Jennie Richardson, who was born in the state of Pennsylvania on April 9, 1846, daughter of Samuel and Eleanor (Hastings) Richards, natives of that same state, and of old Colonial stock, of English and Irish descent, with a strain of German on the paternal side. Mrs. Richardson died in Pennsylvania in 1849, her daughter, Eleanor Jennie, then being but three years of age, and Mr. Richardson died in Indiana in 1858, the daughter, Eleanor Jennie, thus being left an orphan at the age of twelve. For awhile thereafter she lived with her maternal grandparents in Pennsylvania and later with her father's people in Indiana. The latter later came to Nebraska to pioneer it out here and Eleanor Jennie Richardson was living here at the time of her marriage to Mr. Tynan. To that union were born four children, namely: Eleanor, who married A. R. McMullen, a substantial farmer living east of Stella, and has three children, Richard, Joseph and Philip; Robert A., a well-known stockman of the precinct of Muddy, who married Della Harden and has three children, Robert A., Jr., Catherine and Eugene; Bessie, who married William C. Parriot, of Lincoln, this state, and has two children, Dorothy and Tynan, and Fay, who married Dr. D. A. Hewitt, now of Ritzville, Washington, to which union two children were born, daughters both, Elizabeth and Eleanor, the latter of whom is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. McMullen also had another child, now deceased, a daughter, Mildred. Andrew Tynan was reared a Catholic and was a faithful adherent of that faith, but was liberal in his religious views and permitted his wife to direct the religious training of her



children, who were thus brought up in the faith of the Methodist church. Mr. Tynan was a Freemason and took an active interest in the affairs of that ancient order. Mrs. Tynan is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Stella and has for years taken an active part in the work of the Missionary and Aid Societies of that church, as well as in the general good works of the community and was an able co-laborer with her husband in helping to promote all proper agencies for the advancement of the general welfare of the community in which they began to take their part back in pioneer days.

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### CHARLES H. RICKARDS.

Charles H. Rickards, assessor of Richardson county, an honored veteran of the Civil War, an old plainsman with many an interesting tale to tell of the early days hereabout, a resident since 1871 of Falls City, where he formerly was engaged in the lumber business and who, in addition to his service during the Civil War, spent three years in the government employ in Cuba following the Spanish-American War, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of this part of the country ever since the completion of his service as a soldier at the close of the Civil War. He was born on a farm in Adams county, Ohio, September 6, 1845, son of Henry K. and Martha (Neil) Rickards, natives of Maryland, who settled in Adams county, Ohio, where the mother died in 1851. The father later married again and in 1865 moved to LaSalle county, Illinois, where he settled on a farm and where he spent the remainder of his life.

Reared on a farm in Adams county, Ohio, Charles H. Rickards received his schooling there and was living there when the Civil War broke out. In July, 1862, he then lacking two months of being seventeen years of age, but being a strong, husky boy, he enlisted for service as a member of the Seventh Ohio Cavalry and served with that command until the close of the war, being mustered out on July 5, 1865, with a record of never having missed a day of service during all that three years of strenuous military activity; nor was he ever wounded or ill during that time. Mr. Rickards began his service with the Western Army under General Thomas and under that command participated in the battle of Nashville after going with Sherman to Atlanta. After General Lee's surrender he was appointed one of the detail of twelve soldiers that took the infamous Henry Wirtz, superintendent of Andersonville prison, to Dalton, where he paid on the gallows the

penalty for his excessive cruelty to the Union soldiers confined in the stockade at Andersonville under his administration. After the Atlanta campaign Mr. Rickards was sent with his command, still under General Thomas, after Hood, following the latter's army to the Mississippi and thence, on the Wilson campaign, through Alabama and Georgia, to Macon, where the command was stationed when the war closed.

Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Rickards came west and took service as a teamster and a government wagon-master at Leavenworth and was thus engaged on the plains for three years, during which time he had numerous skirmishes with the Indians, on one occasion the redskins getting away with one hundred mules that were under his charge. He then became associated with Creighton in the building of the Union Pacific railroad, transporting supplies, and was engaged in that capacity for two years; during which time he also had considerable trouble with the Indians. He then became engaged with his brother in buying cattle in Texas and in 1871 located at Falls City, where he engaged in the lumber business and was thus engaged until 1885, when he sold his establishment to W. D. Easley. Upon the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, Mr. Rickards received an appointment in the quartermaster's department and for three years thereafter was stationed in Cuba, in government employ. In 1901 he returned to Falls City and there was appointed manager of the local plant of the Chicago Lumber Company, but after awhile relinquished that position and became engaged in the real-estate business, which he is still following quite successfully. In the fall of 1916 Mr. Rickards was elected assessor of Richardson county and is now serving in that important official capacity. Mr. Rickards is an ardent Republican and has ever given his earnest attention to local political affairs, long having been regarded as one of the leaders of his party in this county. He is an active member of the Porter Post No. 84, Grand Army of the Republic and has for years taken a prominent part in the affairs of that patriotic organization. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Masons and the Knights of Pythias and in the affairs of those bodies likewise takes a warm interest.

On May 7, 1870, Charles H. Rickards was united in marriage at Carthage, Missouri, to Philena Ford, who was born in Middleton, New York, daughter of Elmer S. Ford and wife, and who died in November, 1890, at the age of forty-five years, leaving six children, namely: Joseph Elmer, now living at Phoenix, Arizona; Merrill Ogden, of St. Louis, Missouri; Maude Alice, wife of R. E. Wherry, of Kansas City, Missouri; Raymond L., of Cleveland, Ohio; Israel G., of Salt Lake City, and Charles H., Jr., of Denver, Colorado.



## MARSHALL N. HILL.

Marshall N. Hill, well-known and prosperous farmer and breeder of Shorthorn cattle, living in Porter township, this county, was born on December 28, 1861, at Ontario, Canada. He is the son of Elijah C. and Arcosh (Kallerstine) Hill, natives of Ontario, who settled in Richardson county in 1865, and who endured all the hardships of the pioneer period. Elijah C. and Arcosh Hill were the parents of twelve children, six of whom are deceased, the others being Roland, who lives at Greeley, this state; Reuben, J., of Porter township; Marshall N., the subject of this sketch; Elijah C., Jr., further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work; Mrs. Martha Van Vleet, of Crete, this state, and Grant, who lives in Cameron, Montana. In the sketch of the life of Elijah C. Hill, Jr., in this work, there is set forth in detail an interesting account of the life of his father, Elijah C. Hill, Sr., from the date of his arrival in Nebraska in 1865 up to recently, and the reader is referred thereto, the life of the old pioneer being a veritable human document.

Marshall N. Hill, the subject of this sketch, was reared amidst pioneer conditions in Richardson county and was educated in the district schools of his neighborhood. When twenty-one years old he started out for himself and rented land from his father and is now renting land from Carl Van Vleet, his nephew. At the commencement of his activities he had a credit balance of three dollars and twenty-five cents in his cash account. When a boy he herded cattle on the prairie and in this way got his first start. He is now the owner of upwards of one thousand acres of land. He also inherited several acres of land. Mr. Hill improved a homestead farm in the state of Washington, which he sold out in 1907 and invested in six hundred and forty acres of land in Canada. In 1917 he commenced the breeding of Shorthorn cattle and at present has some choice strains of that well-known breed. He has also a high-grade lot of Poland China hogs and on all his agricultural activities he brings sound experience and modern methods to bear.

On July 5, 1896, Marshall N. Hill was united in marriage to Mary Etta Prilliman, born at Andersonville, Indiana, the daughter of Peter Prilliman and wife, who lived in the state of Washington when she married Mr. Hill. To Mr. and Mrs. Marshall N. Hill three children have been born, namely: Curtis James, Ruth and Hazel, who are living at home with their parents. Other children died in infancy. In political affairs Mr. Hill votes the independent ticket. He has never been a seeker after political

office, preferring to devote his time and energies to his extensive land and stock interests. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Mr. Hill relates an interesting incident of his boyhood days. He remembers that in the early morning of August 3, 1874, a terrific hail storm sprung up which destroyed eleven acres of corn his father had planted and which was about to tassel, but was all ruined by the hail. The hail came not alone in the ordinary form, but also in large pieces of ice. It cut through three thicknesses of shingles, broke out windows on the northeast of the house and killed a hog. In the course of its onward fury it peeled the bark from trees and broke down hedges. It extended over an area five miles in width and about eleven miles in length. Mr. Hill, though a boy at the time, has a vivid recollection of the ravages of the storm. A neighbor had been out working when it came along and was badly injured about the head.

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### JOHN M. EVANS.

John M. Evans, president of the Farmers State Bank of Shubert and one of the best-known and most progressive citizens of the northern part of Richardson county, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Nebraska since 1885, in which year he came to this county and became engaged as a school teacher. He later engaged in merchandising and not long afterward became engaged in the banking business and has ever since been thus engaged, a period of nearly a quarter of a century, during which time he has become one of the best-known bankers in this part of the state. He was born on a farm in Gallia county, Ohio, August 28, 1862, son of Evan L. and Elizabeth (Rees) Evans, both of whom were born in that same county and who are now living at Shubert, in this county.

Evan L. Evans was born on November 3, 1840, on the same farm on which his son was born and is a son of David and Ellen Evans, who came to this country from their native Wales in 1823 and bought land in Gallia county, Ohio, the patent for the Evans land there bearing the signature of Andrew Jackson, then President of the United States. On that pioneer farm on which he was born Evan L. Evans grew to manhood and after his marriage established his home on the place, continuing to live there, his house being within one hundred yards of the house in which he was born, until he and his wife came to this county in 1905, in order to be near their children, and have since made their home at Shubert. Mrs. Evans also was born in



Gallia county, Ohio, in 1842, in the neighborhood of the Evans home, a daughter of John and Ellen Rees, who came to this country from their native Wales and settled in Ohio in the early twenties. To Evan L. Evans and wife were born five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: Wellington L., assistant cashier of the Farmers State Bank at Shubert; Mrs. I. A. McDowell, of Hiawatha, Kansas; Mrs. A. S. Hartsook, of Gallia county, Ohio, and David L.; who died in that county at the age of twenty-five years.

John M. Evans was reared on the home farm in Gallia county, Ohio, and completed his schooling in the old Rio Grande College in that county. He then taught school for a couple of years in his home county and in 1885 came to Nebraska, locating at Stella, and for two years thereafter was engaged in teaching school in this county, in the meantime becoming employed in the store of W. R. Wyatt at Stella. Seven years later he became engaged in business at Shubert as a member of the mercantile firm of Colglazier & Evans, and two years later was made cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Shubert, a position he occupied for twenty-one years, or until his election on January 1, 1917, to the office of president of the bank, which responsible position he now occupies. In the meantime Mr. Evans had become a landowner and is still the owner of a half section of land in North Dakota. He recently sold his farm of one hundred and twenty acres in the Shubert neighborhood. Politically, Mr. Evans is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been an office seeker. He is an active, energetic and progressive business man and in his capacity as a banker has done well his part in the development of Shubert during his many years of residence there. The Farmers State Bank of Shubert was organized in 1895 by Warren Hutchins, J. L. Slocum, J. R. Cain, I. W. Harris, Dr. J. A. W. Hull and J. M. Evans, with a capital of \$12,500, which has since been increased to \$20,000. A recent statement of the bank's condition showed that it had a surplus of \$8,000 and deposits to the amount of \$240,000. The present officers of the bank are as follow: President, J. M. Evans; vice-president, J. R. Cain; cashier, G. S. Hutchins; assistant cashier, W. L. Evans, and the above officers and Warren Hutchins and L. L. Jones, directors.

Mr. Evans has been twice married. In 1886, in Ohio, he was united in marriage to Martha E. Norman, who died at her home in this county in 1893. On April 15, 1896, Mr. Evans married Godie R. Richardson, daughter of J. H. Richardson, a well-known and substantial farmer who lives southeast of Shubert, in the precinct of Barada. Mr. and Mrs. Evans have a very

pleasant home at Shubert and take a proper part in the general social activities of their home town. They are members of the Christian church and Mr. Evans is clerk of the same. He is a member of the local lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Stella and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

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### LEVI L. DAVIS.

By close application and able management Levi L. Davis, now living in retirement in his pleasant home in Humboldt, became one of the leading agriculturists of Richardson county, where he has long been rated as a good citizen in the best sense of the word. He was born on September 9, 1846, in Dekalb county, Illinois, and is a son of Albert and Martha (Robinson) Davis, both natives of Canada, where they spent their earlier years and from there came to the States to establish their home, being among the early settlers in Dekalb county, Illinois, where they became well established through their industry.

Levi L. Davis was reared on a farm in his native county and state and there worked hard during the crop seasons. During the winter months he attended the common schools. He was married in Illinois on March 18, 1869. The following year he came to Nebraska and settled on the farm owned by C. M. Hummel, located in Franklin precinct, Richardson county. His wife was known in her maidenhood as Jennet L. Sterns, and she was born, January 19, 1847, in Dekalb county, Illinois. Her death occurred at Humboldt, Nebraska, September 21, 1907.

When Levi L. Davis came to Richardson county his worldly possessions consisted only of four horses, a few household goods and five dollars in money. He went to work earnestly and prospered with advancing years. Soon after taking up his residence here he bought one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid only ten dollars per acre, going in debt for most of it. The place had been but little improved, being only partly broken and only a rude log house stood on it; but Mr. Davis eventually had all the land under a high state of cultivation. He weathered the grasshopper years without being seriously damaged. Six years later, in 1876, he sold his first farm and bought three hundred and twenty acres, buying quit-claim deeds. He later erected a large, commodious dwelling on this farm. He now has two farms of three hundred and twenty acres each in the home place, which is well improved in every respect. He also owns two farms of one hundred





MR. AND MRS. LEVI L. DAVIS.





and sixty acres each. He finally became one of the most extensive and most successful farmers in Richardson county, handling large numbers of live stock of all kinds from year to year. He remained on the farm until in July, 1915, when, having accumulated a comfortable competency for his old age, he removed to a fine modernly-appointed home in Humboldt, in which town he is a stockholder in the Home State Bank, also a director in the same.

Politically, Mr. Davis is a Republican and has always been more or less active and influential in local public affairs. He has held various precinct offices, including that of treasurer of Franklin precinct.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Davis: Everett, who lives in Lincoln, Nebraska; Royal, in Waterman, Illinois; Ruby, at home; Hazel, the wife of R. D. Hicks and they live in Lincoln, Nebraska; Pearl, the wife of Frank Reynolds, of Simpson, province of Saskatchewan, Canada, and they have three children, namely: Lee, Lucille and Doris.

Mr. Davis is deserving of a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished unaided, having started out in a very unpromising environment but he forged ahead despite of obstacles.

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### JACOB C. TANNER.

Jacob C. Tanner, former county clerk of Richardson county and one of the best-known and most progressive merchants in Falls City, was born in the city of St. Joseph, Missouri, but has been a resident of Falls City since he was fifteen years of age, having come over into this state with his parents from Missouri in 1884. He was born on March 30, 1869, son of Jacob J. and Caroline (Ruegge) Tanner, both of European birth, the former a native of Switzerland and the latter of Hanover, who became prominent residents of Falls City and the latter of whom is still living there.

Jacob J. Tanner, who died at his home in Falls City in 1906, was born at Schafhausen, in the republic of Switzerland, October 27, 1842, and when fourteen years of age, in 1856, left his native land and came to this country, locating at St. Joseph, Missouri, where he was engaged in the manufacture of wagons with the firm of Tanner Brothers and was there thus engaged when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted for service as a member of the First Regiment, Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, joining that command at Omaha, and in 1863 was advanced from the rank of a private to that of

corporal. Upon the completion of his military service he returned to St. Joseph, where he resumed work at his trade as a carriage-maker and where he presently married, making his home there until 1877, when he moved to Gallatin, Missouri, where he became engaged as a contractor in railroad ties and a manufacturer and shipper of walnut lumber. In 1880 he transferred his mill to Hamilton, Missouri, where he was engaged in the same line until he had practically exhausted the available timber in that belt, after which, in the fall of 1884, he moved to Falls City and there established a hardware store, which he conducted for a couple of years, or until 1886, when he sold that store and engaged in that city in the agricultural-implement business and was there thus engaged until his death in 1906. Mr. Tanner was a Republican and had served the public as a member of the city council and as a member of the board of supervisors. He was a Mason and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His widow, Caroline (Ruegge) Tanner, who is still living at Falls City, was born in the kingdom of Hanover, December 25, 1847, and was ten years of age when she came with her parents to this country, the family proceeding on out to Nebraska and settling in Richardson county, later moving to St. Joseph, Missouri, where she was living at the time of her marriage to Mr. Tanner. To that union seven children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: Albert A., now a resident of Lincoln, this state; Clara M., assistant postmistress at Falls City; William H., of Omaha; Walter W., who is clerking in his brother's hardware store at Falls City, and two daughters, who died in infancy.

As noted above, Jacob C. Tanner was fourteen years of age when his parents located at Falls City. He had received schooling at St. Joseph, at Gallatin and at Hamilton and after his arrival at Falls City attended school there for a year. He then took a course in the Commercial Business College at St. Joseph and was engaged as a clerk in his father's hardware store at Falls City when his father sold the store to Crook & Company. Young Tanner continued as clerk and bookkeeper for the latter firm for twelve years. In the meantime he had been giving his close personal attention to local politics and became recognized as one of the active young workers in the Republican ranks. In 1901, as the nominee of that party, he was elected county clerk and served in that capacity until 1905. In this latter year he was nominated by his party as the candidate for county treasurer, but was defeated, the campaign of that year going against the Republicans. In 1906 Mr. Tanner bought his present store and has since been engaged in the hardware busi-



ness, also in the general plumbing and heating business, and has done very well, being recognized as one of the leading merchants of the city.

On October 11, 1898, Jacob C. Tanner was united in marriage to Sophia A. Lange who was born in this county on December 23, 1867, daughter of Fred Lange and wife, natives of Germany and early settlers at old Arago, in this county, and to this union has been born one child, a daughter, Helen E., born on July 19, 1902, now in high school. Mr. and Mrs. Tanner have a pleasant home at Falls City and take an interested part in the city's general social activities. Mr. Tanner is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Knights of Pythias and of the Royal Arcanum, and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

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### JESS R. HARRAH.

Jess R. Harrah, former editor and proprietor of the *Dawson Reporter*, one of the liveliest village newspapers in this part of the state, is a native son of Nebraska and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in the neighboring county of Pawnee on February 15, 1886, son of John and Neva A. (Smith) Harrah, natives, respectively, of Indiana and Illinois and both of Scotch-Irish descent, who are now living at DeRidder, in Beauregard parish, Louisiana.

John Harrah came to Nebraska in 1870 and was married in this state. Upon coming out here he homesteaded a tract of land on Turkey creek, in Johnson county, at a time when there were very few settlers in that part of the country, his house at that time being the only one between Tecumseh and the Otoe Indian reservation. He built up a good farm there and then sold it and moved to Pawnee county, where he built up another farm and sold the same to advantage and moved down into Kansas, where he remained about six years, at the end of which time he moved to Minnesota, where he remained until the fall of 1904, when he returned to Nebraska and located in Richardson county, remaining here until June 1, 1915, when he moved to Louisiana, where he and his wife are now living, as noted above.

Jess R. Harrah was nine years of age when his parents moved to Kansas and he was fifteen when they moved to Minnesota, he thus receiving his schooling in three states. When the family came to this county in 1904 he became engaged in farming, but later took up newspaper work at Burchard, over in Pawnee county, and presently bought the *Burchard Times*, which he

published for two years, at the end of which time he sold that paper and returned to Richardson county, locating at Dawson, and on December 15, 1914, bought the *Dawson Reporter*, which he recently sold. After taking possession of the *Reporter* Mr. Harrah made numerous important improvements in the paper and added quite materially to the equipment of his plant, having had one of the best-equipped village newspaper plants in this part of the state and published a very sprightly newspaper, the circulation of which had been largely increased under his able editorial direction. Mr. Harrah also is a photographer of much skill and takes delight in the finished products of his camera. Mr. Harrah sold the *Reporter* on June 6, 1917, and is now engaged as a contractor and builder.

On June 7, 1906, Jess R. Harrah was united in marriage to Lena M. Gerber, of Hiawatha, Kansas, and to this union have been born four children, Warren, Vernon, Chauncey and Bernice Viral. Mr. and Mrs. Harrah have a pleasant home at Dawson and take a proper interest in the general social and cultural activities of their home town and the community at large, helpful in many ways in promoting such movements as are designed to advance the common welfare.

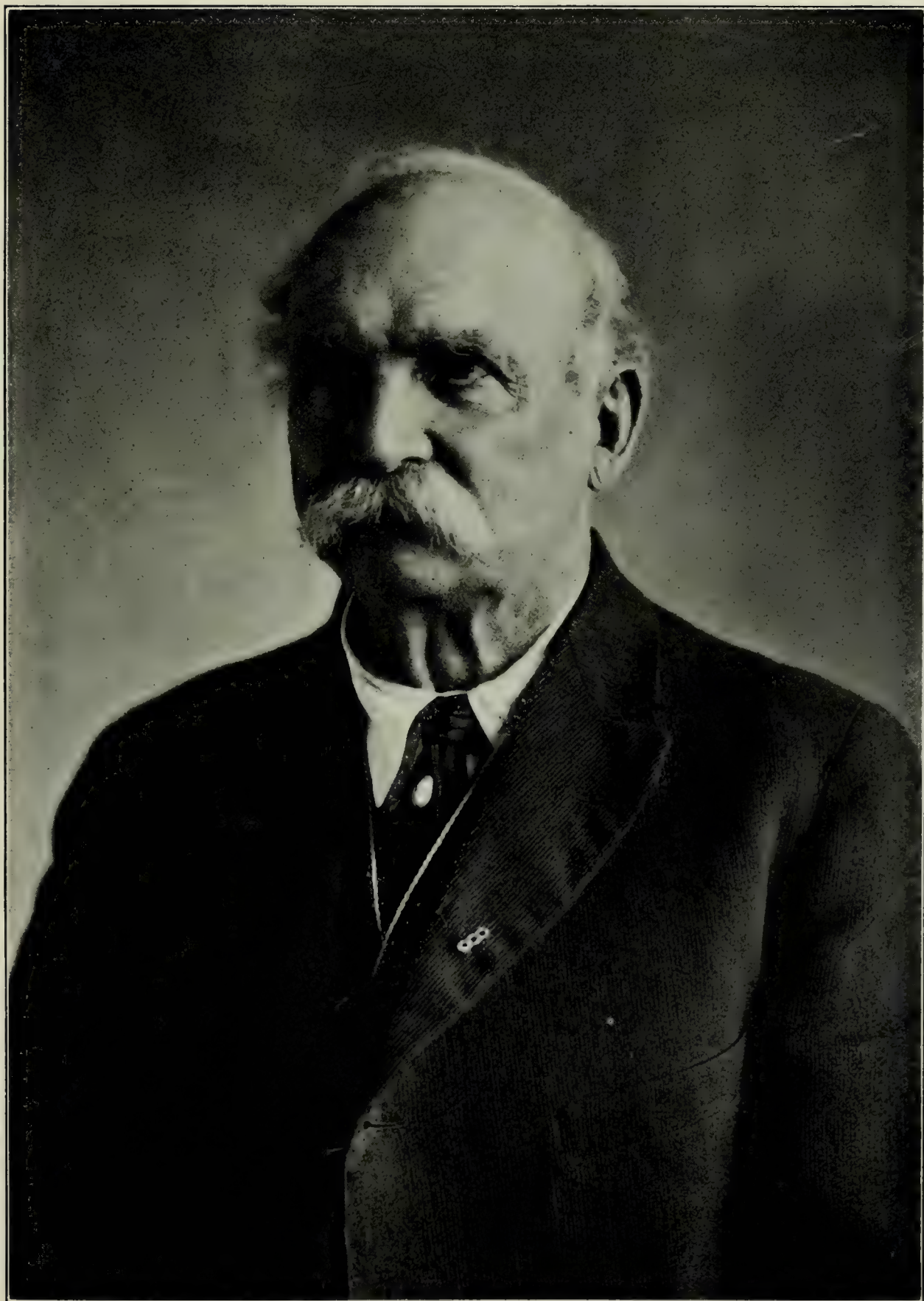
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#### MORGAN H. VANDEVENTER.

The Hon. Morgan H. Vandeventer, former representative in the Legislature from this district, former member of the board of commissioners for Richardson county, one of the real pioneers of this section of Nebraska, an extensive landowner and one of the first settlers in the precinct of Muddy in the northern part of the county, a resident of the town of Stella since 1888 and formerly and for more than forty years actively engaged in the livestock business in this county, now living practically retired at his pleasant home in Stella, is a native of the old Hoosier state, a fact of which he never has ceased to be proud, but has been a resident of Nebraska since 1859 and is thus very properly entitled to be accounted as one of the real "old-timers" of this section. He was born on a pioneer farm in Carroll county, a little to the west of the north central section of Indiana, September 9, 1836, son of Christopher and Elizabeth (Baum) Vandeventer, of Dutch stock, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Ohio, who left Indiana in 1860 and came to the then Territory of Nebraska, settling in this county, where their last days were spent.

Christopher Vandeventer was reared in New York state and when twenty-





MORGAN H. VANDEVENTER.





one years of age, in 1822, went to Indiana, where he married Elizabeth Baum and later settled on a farm in the vicinity of Delphi, in Carroll county, one of the early settlers of that county. There he and his wife reared their family, remaining there until the spring of 1860, when they came out here and settled on a tract of land which their son, the subject of this sketch, had pre-empted the year before in this county and here they spent the remainder of their lives earnest pioneers of Richardson county. They were the parents of ten children, Isaac, George, Jonas, Morgan, Ira and Jane (twins), Margaret, Matilda, Reuben and John, all of whom save the two first named, the elder sons, came to Nebraska in 1860. The first-named, Isaac Vandeventer, served as a soldier of the Union during the Civil War, a member of an Ohio regiment, and George and Jonas Vandeventer served as members of the Fifth Missouri in that struggle between the states, the latter losing his life in the service.

Morgan H. Vandeventer was reared on a pioneer farm in Indiana and remained there until he was past twenty-two years of age, when, in the spring of 1859, by the general agreement of the family, he came West with a view to picking out a home place in the then new country. After a bit of prospecting he decided that this section of the then Territory of Nebraska offered exceptional advantages for settlement and he pre-empted a tract near Prairie Union in Muddy precinct, this county. He built a one-room cabin on the place, a structure sixteen by eighteen feet in dimension, and made some other preparations there for the coming of the family and then traded his gold watch to an Indian for a pony and rode back to Indiana, arriving safely at Delphi, where he was able to give a good account to the family of the progress of his mission out West. The family straightway began to make preparations for the long trip and in the spring of 1860 drove through to this county and took possession of the place that had been made ready for them the summer before. At that time there were but five other families in Muddy precinct, the Quinlans, the Hays and Andy Tynan on the Muddy and E. P. Pattison and the Stouts on Sardine creek. For the children of these families the first teacher was pioneer Cunningham, who conducted a school two or three months a year in that settlement for some little time. The Vandeventers settled down into their new home without much discomfort and soon were well established, the parents having had previous experience in pioneering in their younger days back in Indiana and were thus quite able to make the best of the situation. When the Civil War broke out the three elder sons of the family being away at the front, Morgan H. Vandeventer, the next son, became

the practical mainstay of the pioneer home and had to stay at home to keep things going, but he aided in the organization of a company of Home Guards and received from Governor Nance a commission as an officer of that company. During this period of service it was his painful duty to drive over to Independence, Missouri, and bring back to this county the bodies of three of the boys who went out from this section and were killed in battle, these soldiers having been his brother Jonas, A. Ewing and George Randall, and the bodies of Jonas Vandeventer and George Randall were buried in Prairie Union cemetery, Ewing being buried in the orchard of the Ewing homestead.

After his marriage in 1862 Morgan H. Vandeventer established his home on a farm near Prairie Union, he having in the meantime become the owner of two farms in that vicinity, and there he lived until the spring of 1869, when he moved to the place he long afterward occupied, the northeast quarter of section 29, on Muddy creek, where in 1870 he erected the largest house in the precinct. That farm he improved in excellent shape and as he prospered in his operations added to his land holdings until he became the owner of four hundred and forty acres. Along in the middle seventies Mr. Vandeventer became actively engaged in the live-stock business and it was not long until he was one of the best-known stockmen in this part of the state. For more than forty years, or up to the time of his retirement from general business affairs in the spring of 1916, he continued engaged in the live-stock business and for seven years of that time operated in association with Ben Morgan at Salem. In the summer of 1888 Mr. Vandeventer left the farm and moved to Stella, where he engaged in the mercantile business in partnership with J. H. Overman and was for seven years thus engaged, in addition to looking after his other interests. Mr. Vandeventer is a Republican and for three years (1870-72) served as a member of the board of county commissioners from his district and as chairman of the board signed all the bonds issued by this county as a bonus for the building of the old Burlington & Missouri River railroad through this county. In 1890 he was elected representative in the Legislature from this district and served with distinction in the House during the session of 1891. Mr. Vandeventer is a member of the Christian church and for fifteen years or more has been serving as an elder in the same. For more than forty-two years he has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is the bearer of one of that order's medals issued to members who have been identified with the order for more than forty years. He first became a member of the lodge at Salem and when a lodge was raised at Stella he transferred his membership to the latter. This latter lodge was



presently merged with the lodge at Falls City, but after awhile had its charter restored and Mr. Vandeventer has since been affiliated with the Stella lodge, for many years one of the most active members of the same, as he is one of the most venerable. Despite the fact that he is now in the eighty-first year of his age, Mr. Vandeventer retains much of his aforetime vigor of mind and body and continues to take a warm interest in current affairs.

Mr. Vandeventer has been twice married. In January, 1862, about two years after coming to this county as a permanent settler, he was united in marriage to Sarah Jane Brown, who also was born in Indiana, a step-daughter of John S. Hughes, one of the pioneers of this section, and to that union four children were born, John Albert, who is now living at Longmont, Colorado; Burl J., who is now a resident of Jewell county, Kansas, and Walter J., born on September 17, 1866, who is now the owner of two hundred acres of land in this county and is also cultivating the old home farm in section 29, and Charles, who died at the age of seven months. On December 24, 1886, Walter J. Vandeventer was united in marriage to Keturah Mason, a daughter of T. J. Mason. Mrs. Sarah Jane Vandeventer died in December, 1890, and on December 12, 1891, Mr. Vandeventer married Miss Lois R. Lynn, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of Seaman Lynn and who died on January 26, 1915.

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#### PETER M. GERGENS.

One of the most up-to-date farmers of Franklin precinct, Richardson county, is Peter M. Gergens, who was born in Ross county, Ohio, December 26, 1861. He is a son of Jacob and Appalonia (Frick) Gergens. The father was born in Germany, but when about five years old his parents brought him to America, the family locating in Ohio in 1834. There he spent his boyhood and finally came West, in 1864, locating in Nemaha county, Nebraska, where he remained about fifteen years; then located in Richardson county, in 1879, near Verdon, engaging in general farming there until he retired from active life, moving to the village of Humboldt, where his death occurred in 1905, at the age of seventy-six years. His widow survived until 1912, dying at the age of seventy-four years. To these parents thirteen children were born, three of whom are now deceased.

Peter M. Gergens was about three years old when his parents brought him to Nebraska and here he grew to manhood and attended the public schools, remaining at home until he was twenty-two years old, when he

started in life for himself as a farmer by renting land. He bought his present excellent farm in section 23, in Franklin precinct, on September 6, 1895. The place consists of three hundred and forty acres. It had only a small house and barn on it when he took possession. He went to work with a will and has by his perseverance and close application developed one of the best improved and most productive farms in his locality. He has built a modern twelve-roomed dwelling, around which he has set out a large number of valuable trees, orchard and shade. He has made a specialty of handling large numbers of grade stock from year and year, and no small portion of his annual income has been derived from this source.

Mr. Gergens was married on February 9, 1888, to Anna Reynolds, who was born in Bureau county, Illinois. She is a daughter of Isaac and Martha (Lockard) Reynolds, who removed from Illinois to Nebraska in 1882 and now live at Humboldt, Richardson county.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gergens, namely: Florence, the wife of John Iliff, and they live on a farm near Humboldt; Raymond, married February 14, 1917, to Vera Treaster, and lives on a farm in Porter precinct, and Warren, who is the youngest.

Politically, Mr. Gergens is a Democrat and has long been more or less active in public affairs. He is now serving on the school board of his district, having been a director of the same for a period of eighteen years. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He and Mrs. Gergens belong to the Methodist Episcopal church.

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### JACOB MAJERUS.

The late Jacob Majerus, who at the time of his death at his home in Falls City in the spring of 1914, was accounted one of the most substantial landowners and retired farmers of Richardson county, was of European birth, but had been a resident of this country since 1868, in which year he came to Nebraska and became a pioneer of the Rulo neighborhood, later moving to Falls City, where his last days were spent.

Jacob Majerus was born in the grand duchy of Luxemburg on June 5, 1840, and there grew to manhood. In 1868 he came to the United States and came on out to the then new state of Nebraska and located in this county. He bought a farm in the vicinity of Rulo, over in the eastern part of the county, and after his marriage two years later established his home there.





JACOB MAJER'S AND FAMILY.





Six years later he bought a half section of land in that same neighborhood and on that latter place lived for twenty-two years, or until 1898, when he retired from the farm and he and his wife moved to Falls City, where the latter is still living. Mr. Majerus became a very successful farmer and as he prospered added to his holdings until he became the owner of nine hundred acres of land, a part of which lay in the adjoining counties of Brown and Nemaha, over the line in Kansas, besides his home place in Falls City, which carried with it three acres and nine lots in the eastern part of the city. Mr. Majerus was a Democrat and was a member of the Catholic church, as is his widow, and their children were reared in that faith. Jacob Majerus died on April 28, 1914.

On March 31, 1870, Jacob Majerus was united in marriage to Elizabeth Wilker, who was born at Buffalo, New York, December 11, 1851, daughter of William and Agnes (Sanders) Wilker, both of whom were of European birth, born in the kingdom of Prussia, but who were not married until after their arrival in this country, their marriage taking place in Buffalo, New York, where they remained for some time, later moving to Delphos, Ohio, where they made their home until 1865, in which year they came out to the then Territory of Nebraska and settled on a farm in the timber, in the neighborhood of Rulo, this county. The farm that William Wilker bought there was partly improved and had on it a log cabin in which he established his home, the family living in that humble abode until he presently was able to erect a more comfortable house. William Wilker died at Rulo in 1888 and his widow survived him for more than fifteen years, her death occurring in 1904. Elizabeth Wilker was about fourteen years of age when she came with her parents from Ohio to this county and was living here when she married Mr. Majerus. To that union twelve children were born, namely: Magdalena, who died at the age of five years; John Joseph, who died in infancy; Margaret, who married John E. Tangney and is now deceased; Mary, wife of John E. Sullivan, a real estate dealer and stockman at Effingham, Kansas; Anna, who died at the age of seven months; John J., a farmer, living two miles east of Falls City; Theodore, a farmer, living near Rulo; Henry, who is farming the old home place near Rulo; Jacob, who was drowned while swimming in the Muddy river in 1908; Helen, wife of John C. Mullen, a well-known lawyer at Falls City; Mrs. Anna Krieger, living on a farm east of Falls City, and Catherine, wife of Elmer Niery, now living in California. Mrs. Majerus also has an adopted daughter, Christina, daughter of her deceased daughter, Margaret, and who is now a Sister in the convent of Mt. St. Scholasticas at Atchison, Kansas.

## JOHN WILTSE.

The Hon. John Wiltse, judge of the county court for Richardson county and one of the best-known lawyers in this part of the state, former mayor of Falls City and a substantial landowner and stock raiser of this county, is a native son of Richardson county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Jefferson precinct on January 2, 1876, son of Jerome and Mary L. (Wahl) Wiltse, natives of New York state and pioneer settlers in Richardson county, the former of whom is still living, a resident of Falls City since his retirement from the active labors of the farm and a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, together with something of a genealogical character relating to the Wiltse family in this country. Jerome Wiltse and his wife were the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are still living and further reference to whom is made in the sketch relating to their father.

Judge Wiltse is a twin, his twin brother, James Wiltse, now a resident of Lincoln, where he is engaged in the real-estate business. The judge received excellent training for his judicial position, having been for some years prior to his elevation to the bench a practicing attorney at Falls City. Reared on the home farm, he supplemented the course in the district school in the neighborhood of his home by a course in the Falls City high school and then began teaching school, to which useful calling seven of his brothers and one sister also applied themselves in the early days of their successful careers. For ten years he taught in the schools of Richardson county, meantime continuing his labors on the farm during the summer seasons, and during all that period gave much of his leisure time to the study of the law, completing his studies under the preceptorship of Clarence Gillespie. He was admitted to the bar in 1904 and opened an office for the practice of his profession at Falls City, the county seat, where he ever since has been located. In 1911 he was elected city clerk of Falls City and in 1913 was elected mayor of the city. To this latter office he was re-elected, resigning the office to enter upon the duties of judge of the court following his election to that important office in 1915. During Judge Wiltse's incumbency in the mayor's office many important public improvements were carried to completion in Falls City, including the considerable extension of pavements and the installation of the street lighting and sewer system, which was completed during his term. Judge Wiltse is the owner of more than three hundred acres of land in this county and is extensively engaged in the live-stock business in association with his



brother, Clarence C. Wiltse. The judge is a Republican and has for years taken an active part in the political affairs of the county, long having been looked upon as one of the leaders of his party in this county.

On May 15, 1904, Judge Wiltse was united in marriage to Elsie M. Peck, who was born in the precinct of Ohio, this county, May 23, 1879, a daughter of George W. and Sarah (Maust) Peck, natives of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, who came to this county in 1869 and the latter of whom is still living, now a resident of Falls City. For five or six years prior to her marriage Mrs. Wiltse was engaged as a teacher in the schools of this county. The judge and his wife have four children, namely: Lawrence G., born on February 21, 1905; John H., September 6, 1906; Homer G., February 27, 1909, and Virgil J., June 27, 1912. Judge and Mrs. Wiltse are members of the Methodist church and the judge is a member of the board of stewards of the same. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is vice-grand of the same.

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### JOHN M. GREENE, M. D.

Dr. John M. Greene, of Falls City, one of the best-known physicians and surgeons in this part of the state, is a native son of Nebraska, but was reared in the state of New York and did not return to his native state until some years after he had begun the practice of his profession. He was born on a pioneer homestead farm in Saunders county, September 9, 1874, son of Isaac and Emma J. (Kilner) Greene, pioneers of that section, who later returned to their native state of New York and there spent their last days.

Isaac Greene, an honored veteran of the Civil War, was of old Colonial stock, a descendant of General Greene of Revolutionary fame. He was born and reared in New York state and was living there when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted for service as a member of Company B, Fourteenth New York Artillery, and with that command went to the front, serving from the spring of 1863 until the close of the war, and was present at Lee's surrender at Appomattox. During this period of service he was a participant in one of the most hazardous and destructive charges of the entire war, his regiment having been a part of the command that was flung into the deadly "crater" at the battle of Petersburg and he was one of the twenty men that escaped alive from that terrible cauldron of death. He was captured by the enemy, but soon afterward succeeded in effecting an escape. His brother, Thomas

Greene, died in the service just before the fall of Petersburg. Mr. Greene saw much active service along the Potomac and in the Virginia campaign and came out of the war a seasoned veteran. Upon the completion of his military service he returned to his home in New York, where he presently married and shortly afterward came to Nebraska and took a homestead farm in Saunders county and there established his home, but the grasshopper visitation in that section during the year 1873 so discouraged him that he presently gave up his homestead there and moved over into Butler county and entered on a quarter section, the present site of David City, which he not long afterward sold and then returned to New York, settling at Medina, where he engaged in the manufacture of parlor furniture and was thus engaged until his retirement from business at the age of fifty-nine years. His wife died there in January, 1895, at the age of forty-seven years, and he survived until in January, 1915, he being sixty-eight years of age at the time of his death.

Having been but a child when his parents returned from Nebraska to New York, Doctor Greene received his early schooling in the schools of Medina, in the latter state, supplementing the same by a course in the preparatory academy in connection with Cornell University and in the normal school at Brockport, New York, and then entered the medical department of the University of New York, from which he was graduated in 1898. Thus admirably equipped for the practice of his profession, Doctor Greene opened an office at Medina, New York, and was there engaged in practice for a year, at the end of which time he returned to his native state of Nebraska and opened an office at Plattsmouth, where he remained for three years and during which time he took a post-graduate course in the medical department of the University of Louisville. He then moved to Manley, Nebraska, where he remained a couple of years, at the end of which time, in the spring of 1906, he moved to Salem, this county, where he remained until his removal to Falls City in 1908. In the meantime, in 1904, Doctor Greene had taken a second post-graduate course, specializing in surgery at the New York Polyclinic. He also has on numerous occasions taken special study at Mayo Institute and has become widely recognized as one of the leading surgeons in this part of the state. The Doctor has handsomely appointed offices in the Richardson County Bank building and keeps constantly abreast of the wonderful modern advancement that is being made in his profession. In 1914 he was appointed city physician and served for two years.

On November 10, 1904, Dr. John M. Greene was united in marriage at Plattsmouth, this state, to Dorothy Wehrbein, of that city, daughter of Will-



iam Wehrbein and wife, the former of whom died in 1896, and to this union had been born one child, a daughter, Eleanor, born in 1906. The Doctor and Mrs. Greene are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in church work. They have a very pleasant home at Falls City and have ever taken an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of their home town, helpful in promoting all good causes. Doctor Greene is a Knight Templar and a Royal Arch Mason, generalissimo of the local commandery and high priest of the local chapter, has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for more than twenty-one years and in the affairs of these orders takes a warm interest.

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### VICTOR G. LYFORD.

Victor G. Lyford, one of the leading merchants and business men of Falls City and president of the board of regents of the Nebraska State University, is a native of the state of Illinois, but has been a resident of this state since 1891 and of Falls City since 1899, when he engaged in the mercantile business in that city and has ever since been thus engaged, now the proprietor of the largest store of its kind in Richardson county. He was born at Neponset, in Bureau county, Illinois, August 16, 1859, son of Joseph and Josephine (Hinman) Lyford, the former a native of the state of New Hampshire and the latter of Illinois, who were the parents of eight children, five of whom are still living. The mother of these children, who was born in Groveland, Illinois, in 1836, died in 1870 and the father afterward married again and to that union six children were born, five of whom are still living. Joseph Lyford was born at Canterbury, New Hampshire, November 31, 1828, son of Joseph and Caroline (Dow) Lyford, and was about eight years of age when his parents came West and settled in Illinois. There he was reared on a farm and later engaged in the mercantile business at Neponset, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1900, he then being seventy-two years of age. The Lyfords are an old Colonial family, the first of the name in this country having been an Episcopal clergyman, who came from England in 1627 and settled in New England, where the family is still widely represented.

Reared at Neponset, Victor G. Lyford was made familiar with the details of the mercantile business from his boyhood, the foundation for his successful career having been laid in his father's store when a boy. Upon com-

pleting the course in the schools of his home town he entered the Methodist College at Abingdon, Illinois, and after his graduation from that institution studied law in Chicago and in 1883 was admitted to the bar. In that same year he came to Nebraska and for a few months thereafter was engaged in the practice of law with A. R. Talbot at Lincoln, but finding the law not to his liking presently returned to his old home town in Illinois, where he engaged in the mercantile business, operating a general store, and where he remained for six years, at the end of which time he disposed of his interests there and returned to Nebraska and started a store at Humphrey, up in Platte county, where he remained for eight years, or until 1899, when he sold out there and moved to Falls City, where he opened a general merchandise store with a ten-thousand-dollar stock of goods and where he ever since has been successfully engaged in business, now having the largest store in the dry goods, women's ready-to-wear line, carpets and groceries line in the county. Upon locating at Falls City Mr. Lyford rented a store room fifty by one hundred feet, on Stone street and there remained until 1901, when he moved into his present commodious quarters, where he carries well-stocked lines in the four departments represented in his store. In addition to his extensive mercantile interests Mr. Lyford has given close attention to the general business affairs of his home town and is president of the Leo Cider and Vinegar Company of Falls City. He is a Republican and has given earnest attention to local political affairs, has served as a member of the local school board and is president of the board of regents of the Nebraska State University.

On September 24, 1885, during his residence in Illinois, Victor G. Lyford was united in marriage to Florence N. Willits, who was born at New Boston, Illinois, a daughter of William and Mary (Alyea) Willits, natives of Indiana and both of whom are now deceased, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Mabel, who married Fred M. Brown, of Lewiston, Montana, and has two sons, Lyford and Philip; Grace, who married F. M. Graham, of Buffalo, Wyoming, and has two sons, Robert and Frederick; Gertrude, who married Lloyd Shaffer, of Cedar Falls, Iowa; Helen, wife of Richard P. Dittmar, of Hannibal, Missouri, and Constance and Florence, who are now students of the Nebraska State University. The Lyfords have a very pleasant home in Falls City, Mr. Lyford having bought and remodeled along modern lines his present handsome residence at a cost of eight thousand dollars, and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of their home town. Mr. and Mrs. Lyford are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Lyford is president of the board of trustees of the



same. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

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### REUBEN HARSHBARGER.

Reuben Harshbarger, well-known breeder of thoroughbred, registered Shorthorn cattle, owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 5 and one hundred and twenty acres in section 6, all in Porter precinct, this county, was born on November 26, 1858, in Stephenson county, Illinois. He is the son of William and Sarah (Cauble) Harshbarger, natives of Pennsylvania, descended from Pennsylvania-German stock, and who were early settlers in the state of Illinois. They came to Nebraska in 1871 and located on section 7, Porter precinct, Richardson county, and established themselves on a farm, which they improved and developed, and here they engaged in farming for the rest of their lives. William Harshbarger died on his farm in 1891, at the age of seventy-eight; his wife died in 1892, at the age of eighty-three. William Harshbarger and wife were the parents of nine children, namely: Samuel, John, Simon, Frank and Margaret, all deceased; Henry, who lives in Porter precinct; Ira, living in Humboldt; Reuben, the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Lizzie (Ray) Sites, of Humboldt.

Reuben Harshbarger began doing for himself at the age of nineteen. He commenced by renting land at the low figure of fifty cents an acre on the land known as the John Rausch farm, in 1876. He also rented land for one-fifth of the crop; he was renting in all for a period of four years. In 1880 he made his first purchase of land in Porter precinct, at sixteen dollars an acre, working the tract for four years. He then sold out and spent the next four years in Kansas. In 1889 he bought one hundred acres in section 6, Porter precinct, at thirty-five dollars an acre. His next purchase of one hundred acres was also in section 6, for which he paid sixty dollars an acre, and his final purchase consisted of eighty acres, part of the present home place, paying eighty dollars an acre for the tract. This land is now held to be worth one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre, at least. Following his settlement in 1889 on section 6, Mr. Harshbarger, with commendable enterprise, carried out substantial improvements on the holding. He has lived on the farm in section 5 since 1910, and on this farm also he has incurred considerable expense in laying out improvements. In

addition to his labors on the farm, Mr. Harshbarger has, since 1905, been engaged in breeding thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, holding private and annual sales, the desire to obtain some of his choice strains being keen amongst buyers and top prices are usually paid him. At the present time he has fifty registered cattle of highest quality and since the beginning he has been successful along that line.

On January 14, 1879, Reuben Harshbarger was united in marriage to Clara Metz, who was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, on July 10, 1858, a daughter of Thomas and Rebecca (Andrews) Metz, natives of Northampton county, Pennsylvania, of Pennsylvania-German stock. They were early settlers in Illinois and came to Nebraska in the spring of 1876 and settled on the farm which Mr. Harshbarger now owns. Thomas Metz died in 1886 at the age of seventy-six years and his wife, who survived him for several years, died in 1901, at the age of eighty-one years. To Mr. and Mrs. Harshbarger two children have been born, namely: Verna, who married Roy Trimmer, of Porter precinct, and they are the parents of three children, Herbert, who died at the age of three years; Cecil and Dale; and Jesse L., living on the old home place, who married Ethel Williams and has two children living, Gladys Evelyn and Forrest, and one, Joseph Reuben, who died at the age of two years.

Mr. Harshbarger is a supporter of the Democratic party, but has never been a seeker after public office, preferring to devote his time to his agricultural interests. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen and of the Woodmen of the World.

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### JOHN AHERN.

One of the progressive agriculturists and honored citizens of Richardson county of a past generation, was the late John Ahern, whose sterling Celtic blood made him a man of many commendable personal traits. He was born on August 17, 1836, in Limerick, Ireland, and when eight years old his mother brought him to the United States, the voyage across the Atlantic in an old-fashioned sailing vessel requiring many weeks. They first located in Albany, New York, where he grew to manhood and attended school. Leaving there he came to Galesburg, Illinois, where he was married in 1858 to Ellen Donovan, who was born on November 25, 1835, and her death occurred at Shubert, Nebraska, June 13, 1912.





MR. AND MRS. JOHN AHERN.





During the Civil War Mr. Ahern was employed in a hay press at Galesburg, later removing to Elmwood, Illinois, where he remained until 1866, when he came to Richardson county, Nebraska, buying a farm in East Muddy precinct, one mile south of Shubert, and, by close application and persistent effort he developed a good farm and established a comfortable home. By good management he prospered with advancing years and added several other good farms to his holdings, at one time owning seven hundred and ten acres of valuable land in this county, also fifteen hundred acres in North Dakota. He engaged in general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, becoming one of the leading general agriculturists in Richardson county. He was a man of rare executive ability and foresight, and, being a close observer and a wide miscellaneous reader he kept fully abreast of the times in scientific farming and stock raising. Before his death he deeded his lands to his children, giving each an excellent start in life. He was a splendid example of a successful self-made man, for he came to Nebraska a poor man, and by his own honest and industrious efforts forged to the front, accumulating a handsome competency, in fact, was one of the wealthiest men of his county. He endured the usual hardships and privations of pioneer life on the frontier and after the first year here would have sold his home farm for two dollars and fifty cents per acre and moved to a new country, but Mrs. Ahern discouraged such a course, prevailing upon him to remain here, believing in the future development of the country. It was her desire to rear her sons in the country, far removed from the disagreeable influences of cities and towns.

To John Ahern and wife the following children were born: Charles, deceased; John, living in Barada precinct; Alfred, Thomas, Mary Ellen and Bessie, all on the home place; William, farming near Shubert, Nebraska; Edward and Walter, both on the home place. They all own valuable farms in Richardson county. Alfred is a fruit grower, owning a fine eighty-acre orchard of well-selected fruit. He is owner of the well-known A. G. Shubert fruit farm. These children were all given good educational advantages.

Politically, Mr. Ahern was a Democrat, but was never especially active in public affairs, nor a seeker after political office. He belonged to the Catholic church and assisted in building St. Ann's church. His death occurred on November 6, 1913, at the age of seventy-seven years, after a long, useful and honorable life of which his descendants may well be proud. All of the Ahern children were liberal contributors to the Red Cross fund, and Alfred Ahern invested in Liberty bonds, thus showing their love of country.

## JASON TIMERMAN.

Jason Timerman, a former member of the board of county commissioners for Richardson county and one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of the precinct of Porter, now living retired in the pleasant village of Stella, is a native of the great Empire state, but has long been a "West-erner" since he was three years of age and a resident of Nebraska since he was twenty, having come to this county with his parents in 1869, the family becoming pioneers of the precinct of West Muddy. He was born in Jefferson county, New York, March 7, 1849, son of Jacob and Rosina (Flanders) Timerman, who emigrated with their family from that state to Illinois in 1852 and who remained in the latter state until 1869, when they came out to Nebraska and settled on a quarter-section farm in the precinct of West Muddy, in this county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, Mrs. Timerman dying seven years later, her death occurring on May 12, 1876, and Mr. Timerman surviving until January 4, 1900, he being seventy-nine years of age at the time of his death. Jacob Timerman and wife were the parents of thirteen children, of whom the subject of this sketch was sixth in order of birth, the others being as follow: John, a veteran of the Civil War, who is now living at Neodesha, Kansas; Mrs. Amy Bartlett, deceased, who was the wife of a Civil War veteran; Amos, who enlisted for service as a soldier of the Union during the Civil War and was killed in the battle of Atlanta, Georgia; Romaine, who also was a soldier of the Union during the Civil War, now deceased; Sydney, another veteran of the Civil War, now a resident of North Platte, this state; Nelson, who is engaged in the hardware business at Verdon, this county; Mrs. Ellen Shuck, deceased; Mrs. Emma Shuck, of Guide Rock, this state; Frank W., who is living on the old home place in the precinct of West Muddy; Mrs. Hattie West, who died at Guide Rock; Lydia, who died in infancy, and Carrie, wife of J. E. Gilbert, of Stella.

As noted above, Jonas Timerman was but little more than a babe when his parents moved from New York state to Illinois and in the latter state he grew to manhood. During the progress of the Civil War he attempted several times to enlist and get to the front to join his four elder brothers and his brother-in-law, and in this patriotic endeavor had the sanction of his father, who was glad to have sons to serve in so noble a cause, but his youth was against him, he having been but sixteen years of age when the war closed and his pleas to enter the service were invariably rejected by the recruiting officers. When the family came to this county in 1869 Jason Timerman



entered upon the task of helping to improve and develop the home place, his father having bought an unimproved farm in West Muddy, and presently bought an "eighty" in the neighboring precinct of Porter, going in debt for the same, and after his marriage in the following summer (1880), established his home on that eighty, he and his wife beginning their housekeeping in very humble style in a little house fourteen by twenty feet in dimensions. He gradually paid off the debt on that place and ten years later bought an adjoining "eighty", which he also improved and developed in fine shape and it was not long until he had there a splendid farm, well improved and highly cultivated and one of the most comfortable homes in that part of the county, his quarter section long having been recognized as one of the best farms in that neighborhood. There Mr. Timerman continued to live, actively engaged in farming and stock raising, until 1905, when he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Stella, where he has since made his home and where he and his wife are very comfortably situated. Mr. Timerman is a Republican and has held township and county offices, having for some time served as assessor of his home precinct, for one term as a member of the board of county commissioners from his district and for twelve years as a member of the school board. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church and he is a member of the local lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, to which he has belonged for more than thirty-two years and which for seven years he served as financier.

On August 15, 1880, Jason Timerman was united in marriage to Frances Otto, who was born in Germany on January 23, 1855, and who was but a babe in arms when her parents, Henry and Anna (Lambert) Otto, in that same year, came to this country and settled in Outagamie county, Wisconsin, where they remained until the spring of 1866, when they came to Nebraska and settled in the precinct of Muddy, in this county. There Mrs. Otto died in the fall of 1876. In 1880 Mr. Otto went to Kansas, where he spent his last days, his death occurring there in 1884. To Mr. and Mrs. Timerman one child has been born, a son, Ona H., who was born on October 8, 1881, and who died on May 8, 1906, at Los Angeles, leaving a widow, who is now living at Orange, California. Ona H. Timerman was a graduate of the University of Nebraska and was for some time an instructor in the university, the youngest instructor on the staff of three hundred in that institution. He later was elected county surveyor of Richardson county, the youngest person ever elected to that office in this county. Declining health forced him to seek a change in the climate of Los Angeles and he died in that city, mourned by hosts of warm friends in this county and in other parts of Nebraska.

## MICHAEL RILEY.

Michael Riley is one of four brothers extensively engaged in farming and cattle raising in Richardson county. He is the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of choice land in sections 11, 14 and 22, Grant precinct, where he farms on a large scale and raises an excellent strain of the well-known Polled Angus cattle. He is the son of pioneer parents, Michael and Mary (O'Brien) Riley, and was born on September 14, 1863, in West Muddy precinct, this county.

His parents, Michael and Mary Riley, came from New Jersey, where they were married in 1853, to Nebraska, coming on to Rulo, this county, in 1859. They made the trip by ox-team from Rulo to a point within three miles of Verdon and there Michael Riley secured one hundred and sixty acres of land. He bought a small house which he moved on to his claim and here he and his family and his brother-in-law, Thomas Farrell, and the family of the latter made their home together. At the end of a couple of weeks his little house was uprooted by a tornado and they immediately set to work to reconstruct it, getting additional lumber for the purpose. With two yoke of oxen Michael Riley commenced the task of breaking his land and soon had it in a state of cultivation. He sold this holding in 1864 and bought one hundred and twenty acres near Dawson, where he lived until 1884, at which time he bought a tract of land northeast of Dawson, where Michael Riley now lives, and there spent the rest of his life. Michael and Mary Riley were the parents of seven children, namely: Daniel, of Grant precinct; James, who died in Omaha in 1907; William, living on the old home place in Grant precinct; Bernard, the first of the family born in this county, lives in Dawson; Michael, the subject of this sketch; Mary, who married M. J. Clancy, of Dawson, and Annie, who died in 1871. The elder Michael Riley was born in 1826 and came to this country in 1847; his wife was born in 1830 and came to America in 1851. They were natives of County Tipperary, Ireland, and were married in this country. They were members of the Catholic church.

Michael Riley was educated in the district schools of his neighborhood, after which he helped his father on the farm. He was twenty years old when his father died and he then took charge of the home place. Ten years later his mother died and he then bought out the other heirs to the one hundred and sixty acres of the home place, and here he has since been engaged in general farming and cattle raising, now being the owner of four



hundred and eighty acres of land. In 1914 he built a modern house, equipped with steam heat, gas lights and hot water, at a cost of six thousand dollars, and here he and his family are comfortably situated. In 1907 he built a cattle barn and carried out other valuable improvements. In 1905 he commenced breeding Aberdeen Polled Angus cattle and in this line, as in his farming, he has met with much success, his Aberdeen cattle fetching good prices on the market. Hard work and thrift have been large factors in his success.

On November 29, 1899, Michael Riley was married to Ellen Fenton, who was born on March 25, 1870, at Norwich, Connecticut, the daughter of Jeremiah and Katherine (Calnan) Fenton. To Mr. and Mrs. Riley four children have been born, as follow: Mary, born on August 10, 1902, who is at home; Joseph and Paul, who are deceased, and Michael J., born on October 20, 1908. Mr. Riley and his family are members of the Catholic church and he is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

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#### JOSEPH C. YUTZY, D. D. S.

The Hon. Joseph C. Yutzy, of Falls City, doctor of dental surgery, now retired from active practice of his profession, a pioneer of his profession in southeastern Nebraska, an honored veteran of the Civil War, former representative in the Legislature from this district, former mayor of Falls City, formerly and for twenty years a member of the school board in that city and in other ways identified with the civic and general affairs of this community since his arrival here back in the seventies, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of Nebraska for the past forty years and has therefore been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days. He was born on a farm in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, March 24, 1843, son of Daniel and Magdalena (Brennaman) Yutzy, natives of Germany, whose last days were spent in that county.

Daniel Yutzy was born in 1802 and was reared in his native land, and remained there until he was twenty-one years of age, when, in 1823, he came to the United States, working his way over as a sailor, the passage requiring eleven weeks, and settled in Pennsylvania, where he began work helping to dig the old Pennsylvania canal at a wage of fifty cents a day. He eventually settled in Somerset county, where he married and established his home on a farm, becoming a substantial and well-to-do farmer and a

man of influence of his community. He was twice married. His first wife, Anna Brennaman, a native of Germany, who had come to this country with her parents when a girl, the family settling in Pennsylvania, bore him six children, three sons and three daughters, Mary, Catherine and Enoch, deceased; Samuel, a resident of Pennsylvania and of Florida; Joel, who continues to live near the old homestead, and Anna, wife of Jonas J. Beachey, living near Grantsville, Maryland. The mother of these children died and Daniel Yutzy then married his deceased wife's sister, Magdalena Brennaman, who was born in 1816 and who was but six years of age when her family came to this country, and to that union also were born six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: Jeremiah, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; Lydia, deceased; Mrs. Barbara Beall, of Sandpatch, Pennsylvania, and Dr. Simon M. Yutzy, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, a former instructor in the medical department of the University of Michigan at that place. The mother of these children died in 1863, at the age of forty-seven years. The father survived until 1882, he being eighty years of age at the time of his death.

Joseph C. Yutzy grew up on the home farm in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, a valued aid in the work of improving and developing the same, and was living there when the Civil War broke out. On August 1, 1862, he then being nineteen years of age, he enlisted for service in Company C. Fifty-fourth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and with that command went to the front and remained in the service until mustered out at the close of the war. He participated in the battle of Gettysburg and at the battle of New Market, Virginia, May 15, 1864, was seriously wounded, being shot through the right arm and the left leg, and while thus disabled was taken prisoner by the enemy. In the July following, his wounds then being far from healed, he was transferred to Libby Prison and thence, after a while, to Belle Island and thence, in the fall, to Salisbury Prison, where he remained, still suffering terribly, until his exchange on February 22, 1865. Upon his exchange he was taken to Wilmington, North Carolina, and thence by transport to Annapolis, where he was given a berth in the barracks and where he was cleaned up, trimmed up and made well again and given proper clothing. He was then given a thirty-day furlough and arrived home on March 18, 1865. There he suffered a relapse, due to his weakened condition, as a consequence of the terrible suffering he had undergone, and for a time it was thought he could not recover. His furlough was extended for thirty days and while he was thus laid up his regiment



was captured by the enemy and held prisoners until the surrender of Lee not long afterward. He presently joined his regiment at Annapolis and there received his honorable discharge, the command being mustered out of the service at that point. Upon the completion of his military service he returned home and resumed his studies in school, later beginning to teach school, and was thus engaged for two years, spending his summer vacations in the study of dentistry under the preceptorship of Dr. W. C. Hicks, at Myersdale, Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1867 he married and settled down to the practice of his profession at Myersdale.

For twelve years Doctor Yutzy remained in practice at Myersdale and then, in 1878, he came West looking for a likely place to locate in this then new country. Among the places he investigated was Falls City and so well pleased was he with the outlook here that he decided to remain, a decision he never has had cause to regret. Upon taking this decision the Doctor returned East for his family and without loss of time established his home in Falls City, continuing there in active practice until a stroke of paralysis on November 26, 1915, compelled his retirement. Doctor Yutzy built up an extensive practice, having been one of the real pioneers in his profession in this part of the state and is widely known throughout this whole section. The Doctor is a Republican of the "standpat" type and from the very beginning of his residence in this county took an active part in local civic affairs. He represented this county in the Nebraska state Legislature for two terms, served one term as mayor of Falls City and for twenty years was a member of the local school board, in all his service in behalf of the public giving of the best that was in him for the common good.

Doctor Yutzy has been twice married. It was in October, 1867, in Pennsylvania, that he was united in marriage to Sarah E. Beane, to which union seven children were born, namely: Charles, a skilled musician, who is now operating a moving-picture theater at Lebanon, Indiana; Grace, wife of D. D. Reavis, of Falls City; Henry Clay, who is engaged in the railroad service at Albert Lea, Minnesota; Anna Dickinson, who died at the age of six years; Elizabeth, who also died at the age of six; Nellie, wife of Frank Uhlig, a farmer of this county, and Philena, wife of Frank R. Wilson, of Washington, D. C. The mother of these children died in 1886 and on May 24, 1888, Doctor Yutzy married Mrs. Kate (Quinn) Boyle, widow of Basil Boyle and the mother of three sons, Langdon E. Boyle, now a resident of San Francisco, California; Basil T. Boyle, of St. Louis, a traveling salesman, and Walter S. Boyle, of Memphis, Tennessee. Mrs. Yutzy was born

at Leavenworth, Kansas, a daughter of Andrew and Maria Quinn, natives of Ireland and early settlers at Leavenworth. Doctor and Mrs. Yutzy have a pleasant home at 1609 Lane street, Falls City, and have ever taken a proper part in the general social and cultural activities of their home town. The Doctor is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the affairs of which patriotic organization he ever has taken a warm interest and is past commander of the local post, having been the first commander of the same. He became an Odd Fellow back in Pennsylvania in 1871 and is past grand marshal of the grand lodge of that order in this state, having been a representative to the grand lodge from his local lodge for ten years. He also is a Mason and a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and in the affairs of all these organizations took a warm interest and still continues that interest, though now unable to continue the active participation in the affairs of the organizations that he delighted in during his years of physical activity.

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### JAMES M. WHEELER.

The late James M. Wheeler, of Shubert, who for many years was one of Richardson county's best-known pioneer farmers, an honored veteran of the Civil War, former treasurer of the precinct of Barada and former mayor of Shubert, who died in the fall of 1903 while returning home from the national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at San Francisco, was a native of the great Empire state, but had been a Westerner from the days of his childhood, his parents having moved to Wisconsin when he was about five years of age, and had been a resident of Nebraska and of Richardson county since 1866, having settled here in the spring following his discharge from the army in the fall of 1865. He was born in the state of New York on September 1, 1839, son of Cargill and Abigail (Webster) Wheeler, natives of that same state and representatives of old colonial families, who came West in 1845 and settled in Wisconsin, where they spent the remainder of their lives, influential pioneer residents of Greene county, that state.

Having been but a child when his parents moved from New York to Wisconsin, James M. Wheeler grew to manhood in the latter state, familiar with pioneer conditions in a new country, and was living there when the Civil War broke out. At the first call to arms in April, 1861, he enlisted





JAMES M. WHEELER AND FAMILY.





the First Wisconsin Cavalry, with which command he served for more his services in behalf of the Union and went to the front as a member of than four years, or for some months after the close of the war, being finally mustered out in the fall of 1865. During this long period of service Mr. Wheeler saw much active service, was a participant in many of the bloodiest and important engagements of the war and was a member of the squad that captured Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America, at the close of the war. He was mustered out with the rank of sergeant. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Wheeler returned to his home in Wisconsin and early the next spring came over into the then Territory of Nebraska with an army comrade, John Spencer, and bought a quarter of a section of land in the half-breed strip in the precinct of Barada, in this county, paying for the same one dollar and fifty cents an acre. Upon establishing his ownership to the tract he returned to his home in Wisconsin and in November was married, returning straightway with his bride and their small worldly possessions to this county. There was no house on the tract, which was wholly unimproved, and during their first winter here Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler made their home in a little old abandoned blacksmith shop. In the meantime Mr. Wheeler bought twenty acres of timber land and during that winter cut out logs with which to construct a log house and in the spring his neighbors helped him put up a dwelling place, fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions, built of these logs. This rude cabin had a dirt floor and the roof was of such loose construction that the moonbeams shone through and the rain poured in, but the occupants of this rude abode had high faith in the outcome of their pioneering and looked with cheerful hearts to the future when they should have a better home and all the comforts of life. Mrs. Wheeler had been a school teacher back in her old home and after coming here taught school for some time, in order to help things along, at the same time keeping up her simple household tasks—for housekeeping was not a greatly complicated undertaking in the homes of the pioneers—and with the proceeds from her first term of school bought the first cow and calf the Wheelers owned. There were few white people in that neighborhood at that time, but what were there were good and kind and the young couple did not feel entirely isolated from the world. In that little log cabin, which gradually was made more secure against the invasion of the elements, their children were born and they lived there for quite a number of years, or until they finally erected a more commodious and comfortable dwelling. Mr. Wheeler was a good farmer and as he prospered in his operations added to his holdings until he became the owner

of a half section of land in this county, a quarter of a section in Oklahoma and a couple of building lots in Shubert. In January, 1899, Mr. Wheeler retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Shubert, where they erected a beautiful cottage and where Mrs. Wheeler is still living. Mr. Wheeler was a Republican and for some years during his residence on the farm served as treasurer of Barada precinct and later served as mayor of Shubert. He was a Mason and a member of the Grange and for years was one of the most active members of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1903 he and his wife went to the coast on a visit to their daughter, at Eugene, Oregon, and to attend the national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at San Francisco. Upon returning from San Francisco Mr. Wheeler got off the train at Granger, Wyoming, to buy some refreshments and without premonition dropped dead on the station platform, his heart apparently having suddenly succumbed to the strain which the long trip and the variation of his ordinary routine of life had exerted upon it. That was on September 4, 1903, and the body was brought back to this county for interment. Mr. Wheeler and Mr. King broke the ground for the soldiers' monument at Prairie Union and their names headed the list of subscribers to the fund for the erection of the same, and in 1912 Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. King continued the work and finally secured the erection of the monument.

It was on November 16, 1866, in Green county, Wisconsin, that James M. Wheeler was united in marriage to Almira A. Foote, who was born in Erie county, New York, April 2, 1845, daughter of Charles Giles and Caroline (Pyncheon) Foote, the former of whom was born in that same county and the latter at Attica, in Genesee county, same state. Charles Giles Foote was a son of Lewis Foote. In 1855 he left New York state with his family and moved to Green county, Wisconsin, where he established his home, the family being joined there the next year by the daughter, Almira, who had remained behind at her old home in Erie county to teach school for another term there. In the fall after her arrival in Wisconsin she was married to Mr. Wheeler and came out to this county, where she ever since has lived, one of the best-known and most highly respected pioneers of the northern part of the county. To Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler three children were born, Flora Belle, Charles Cargill and Mary Maude. Flora Belle Wheeler has been twice married and is now living on the old home place in the precinct of Barada, which her husband, Henry Fishburn, is operating. By her first marriage she had one son, Guy O. Smith, who was reared by Mrs. Wheeler and who at the age of seventeen years enlisted in



the navy, received his discharge four years later, as an electrician and is now a railroader in Kansas. Charles Cargill Wheeler was accidentally drowned in the brook that flows through the Wheeler farm when he was but a toddler, one year and seven months of age. Mary Maude Wheeler, who married Curtis Downs and is now living at Los Angeles, California, has three children; Mrs. Madge Myrtle Hart-Pendleton, who has one son, Byron Hart, by her first marriage; Mrs. Zenith Frisbie, who has two children, Lavelle and Adelbert, and Mrs. Lois Albertson, who has one child, a son, Harry.

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### WILLIAM R. HOLT.

William R. Holt, one of the best-known and most influential business men at Falls City, proprietor of an extensive hardware, plumbing and heating establishment in that city and formerly and for years one of the best-known breeders of high-grade live stock in Nebraska, is a native son of Richardson county and has lived here all his life. He was born at the village of Salem, in the precinct of that name, December 7, 1876, son of the late Hon. John W. and Amanda M. (Oliver) Holt, who were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch, the last-born, is now the only survivor, the others having been Amanda, Nellie and George. A memorial sketch of the Hon. John W. Holt appears in this volume.

William R. Holt's youth was spent in Falls City, and his schooling in the public schools was completed in the schools of this city, to which place his parents had moved from Salem in 1878. He supplemented that course by a year's schooling at St. Benedict's College at Atchison and a two-years' course in a business college at Lincoln, after which, in 1896, he entered his father's bank, the First National Bank of Falls City, and for eighteen months thereafter was engaged as a clerk in that institution. In 1898, some months after his marriage, he bought a farm one mile west of Falls City and there established his home, being engaged in general farming and stock breeding until his retirement from the farm in 1912 and removal to Falls City, where he has since been engaged in business. During his residence on the farm Mr. Holt gave particular attention to the breeding of Berkshire hogs, in which phase of farming he had been interested from the days of his boyhood, and soon became recognized as one of the leading stockmen in that line in the state. He was equally successful in breeding pure-bred

Shorthorn cattle and his exhibits at numerous county and state fairs ever attracted much attention among breeders. In 1903 he made an exhibit of his stock at the Iowa state fair at Des Moines and in that same year exhibited at Lincoln, Topeka, Hutchinson and St. Louis. The next year he showed at Des Moines, Sedalia, Lincoln, Topeka, Hutchison and Kansas City, and in 1905-08 continued this circuit, with St. Joseph included, while in 1906 he took the prize for the best-bred sow exhibited at the Tennessee state fair at Memphis. Mr. Holt is a member of the Berkshire Association and though not now giving so much of his personal attention to the stock business continues to take a warm interest in the affairs of that association. Upon moving to Falls City in 1912 he engaged there in the hardware, plumbing and heating business and has a well-equipped establishment in that line. He owns a farm of one hundred and sixty-three acres north of Falls City and has a half interest in a farm of two hundred and eighty acres in the northwestern part of the county and has not abandoned his interest in agricultural matters. Politically, Mr. Holt is a Republican and takes a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

It was on June 1, 1897, that William R. Holt was united in marriage to Eva Giannini, of Falls City, who was born in Atchison county, Missouri, daughter of Marion and Linda (Seymour) Giannini, natives, respectively of Virginia and Missouri, who came to this state from Missouri in 1884 and located at Falls City, where Mr. Giannini was engaged in the bus and baggage transfer business until his death in 1915, he then being past sixty years of age, and where his widow is still living. To this union one child has been born, a daughter, Nellie Lee, born on February 1, 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Holt are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Holt is an elder of the local congregation. They have a very pleasant home at Falls City and take a proper part in the general social and cultural activities of their home town, Mrs. Holt being a member of several of the leading clubs of the town, in the affairs of which she has long taken a warm interest. Mr. Holt is a Mason and a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Royal Arcanum and in the affairs of these several organizations takes an active interest. As one of the leading merchants of Falls City he gives his earnest attention to the general business affairs of that city and has long been helpful in promoting such movements as are designed to advance the common welfare hereabout.



## WILLIAM RUDOLPH BOOSE, M. D.

Dr. William Rudolph Boose, one of the best-known physicians and surgeons in this county, a practitioner at Falls City since 1905, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of Falls City since he was two years of age. He was born at Salisbury, Pennsylvania, April 11, 1874, son of William and Margaret (Turner) Boose, both natives of that same state, of sterling old Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, the former born in 1846 and the latter in 1845, who are now living at Falls City, where they celebrated their golden-wedding anniversary on January 17, 1917, the occasion having been made one of much felicitation and congratulation on the part of their many friends in that city and throughout the county, where they have resided since pioneer days.

William Boose was about thirty years of age when he came out to Nebraska with his family with a view to establishing his home in this the rapidly developing section. That was in 1876, and he established his home on a farm six miles southwest of Falls City, where he remained until he was forty-nine years of age, when he retired from the active labors of the farm and removed to Falls City, where he and his wife are still living. To them eight children have been born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Louis A., deceased; Mrs. Dr. Emma J. Tucker, a missionary, now stationed at Technow, China; the Rev. John H. Boose, a Presbyterian clergyman, now engaged in the ministry at Marinette, Wisconsin; Mrs. Florence Holferty, of Pontiac, Illinois; Clara, of Banning, California; Mrs. Elta B. Young, of Montclair, New Jersey, and Frank, deceased.

Doctor Boose was well prepared by preliminary study for the practice of his profession. Upon completing the course in the Falls City high school he entered the University of Nebraska and was graduated from that institution, with the degree of Bachelor of Science, in 1899. He then entered Rush Medical College at Chicago, and was graduated from that institution in 1904, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Upon receiving his diploma he was appointed an interne in the Englewood Hospital at Chicago and after a year of very valuable practical experience returned home and opened an office for the practice of his profession in his home city and has since been thus engaged in that city. The Doctor has well-appointed offices in the Richardson County Bank building and has built up an extensive practice. On the occasion of Falls City being made a railroad division point in 1911

he was appointed a division surgeon for the Missouri-Pacific railway system and is still serving in that capacity. He served for one year as city physician and in 1906 was appointed to the position of county physician, and served for eight years. Politically, the Doctor is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local public affairs.

In June, 1908, Dr. William R. Boose was united in marriage to Mabel F. Wilson, of Falls City, daughter of Robert P. and Adaline Wilson, old residents of that city, and to this union two children have been born, Helen Adaline and William Rudolph. The Doctor and Mrs. Boose are members of the Presbyterian church and take a proper part in church work and in the general social and cultural activities of their home town, helpful in many ways in promoting such movements as are designed to advance the common welfare. The Doctor is a member of the local Masonic lodge and takes an active interest in Masonic affairs. He also is affiliated with several fraternal insurance organizations and gives his helpful attention to the same.

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#### CHARLES F. SCHNEIDER.

Charles F. Schneider, one of the well-known and substantial farmers in the southwestern part of this county and the proprietor of a well-improved and profitably cultivated farm of ninety acres in the precinct of Nemaha, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of this county since the days of his infancy, with the exception of three years spent in the railway service in Ohio and the time spent in college in Indiana. He was born on a farm in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, July 20, 1873, son of George and Mary (Kate) Schneider, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Ohio, born of German parents, who later became pioneer residents of this county and here spent their last days.

George Schneider, born in 1833, was a blacksmith in Ohio and in 1866, at the time lands in this part of the country were beginning to attract settlers in large numbers, he came out to Nebraska and bought a tract of land in the precinct of Nemaha, in this county, believing the same to be an excellent investment, but without the expectation of making his residence on the same. In 1874 his health began to fail and under advice to seek a different climate he moved with his family to his land in this county and here established his home, becoming early recognized as one of the influential farmers of that section. There he spent his last days, his death occurring on Decem-



ber 26, 1910, he then being seventy-seven years of age. His widow survived for about four years, her death occurring in 1914, she then being sixty-seven years of age. They were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Rev. Jacob U. Schneider, a minister of the Evangelical Lutheran church, now stationed at Evansville, Indiana; George E. Schneider, former clerk of Richardson county, now a resident of Hemingford, this state; Mrs. George E. Garver, who lives on the state line in Nemaha precinct, and Mrs. Katie Windrum, of that same precinct.

As noted above, Charles F. Schneider was but an infant when his parents came to this county and he grew to manhood on the home farm in the precinct of Nemaha, receiving his early schooling in the district schools of that neighborhood. This schooling he supplemented by a course in Valparaiso University at Valparaiso, Indiana, after which, when twenty-one years of age, he became a telegraph operator and was thus employed for three years in the service of the Cleveland, Lorain & Western Railroad in Ohio. Under the close confinement of that form of service his health began to fail and he abandoned telegraphing and returned to the freer life of the farm and has since continued to occupy the old home place, where he and his family are very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. In addition to his general farming Mr. Schneider has given considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock and has done very well. In his political affiliation he is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

On August 16, 1896, in Ohio, Charles F. Schneider was united in marriage to Sarah Dumermuth, who also was born in Tuscarawas county, that state, February 23, 1874, a daughter of Jacob and Magdaline (Zimmerman) Dumermuth, natives of Switzerland and of Ohio, respectively, the former of whom died in Ohio on January 6, 1912, and the latter of whom, born on June 25, 1838, is still living in that state. Jacob Dumermuth and wife were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Schneider was the seventh in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mrs. Ladrach, of Ohio; Miss Salome Dumermuth, of New Philadelphia, Ohio; Albert S., of that same place; Louis G., deceased; William J., of Strausburg, Ohio, and Mrs. E. G. Livengood, of Tuscarawas county, that state.

To Charles F. and Sarah (Dumermuth) Schneider four children have been born, namely: Raymond J., born on September 6, 1898; Bertha S., June 22, 1900; Ruby M., September 8, 1909, and Grace M., August 8, 1913.

The Schneiders are members of the Reformed church and take a proper part in church work, as well as in the general social activities of their home neighborhood. Mr. Schneider is a member of the Masonic lodge at Sabetha, Kansas, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

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### RILEY D. WAGGONER.

Riley D. Waggoner, one of Richardson county's most substantial farmers and stockman and proprietor, in jointure with his wife, of a fine place in section 10 of the precinct of Arago, besides the owner of a large tract of land in Cherry county, this state, was born in a hewed-log cabin on a pioneer farm over the river in the neighboring county of Holt, in Missouri, and has lived in this region practically all his life, a resident on his present place since 1883, he and his wife having settled there shortly after their marriage. He was born on January 8, 1852, son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Yount) Waggoner, natives of Tennessee, who were the parents of eleven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth and four of whom are still living. Jacob Waggoner was married three times and his last wife bore him four children, of whom two are still living.

Jacob Waggoner was born on a plantation in the neighborhood of Nashville, Tennessee, March 22, 1823, a son of John Waggoner and wife, the latter of whom was a Brown, natives, respectively, of North Carolina and Tennessee and whose last days were spent in the latter state. When about eight years of age Jacob Waggoner came West with his three uncles, Solomon, Daniel and David Waggoner, and grew to manhood in Missouri, where he married Elizabeth Yount, who was born in Tennessee in 1822 and who had moved to Missouri with her parents, the family settling in Holt county. After his marriage Jacob Waggoner established his home in a hewed-log cabin in Holt county and there resided until 1856, when he came across the river and became one of the pioneers of this county, buying a farm in the vicinity of the old settlement of Archer. A year later he sold his place and returned to Missouri, but in 1858 he came back to Richardson county. Two years later, however, in 1860, he returned to Missouri and there spent the remainder of his life. His first wife, the mother of the subject of this sketch, died on April 21, 1868, and he survived for more than twenty years, his death occurring on February 21, 1889.

Riley D. Waggoner received his schooling in the schools of Holt county





MR. AND MRS. RILEY D. WAGGONER.







and of the old precinct of St. Stephen in this county. When twenty-one years of age he began farming on his own account and after farming for a few years in Holt county, Missouri; he then went to Leadville, Colorado, and prospected for three years in the mining region, becoming one of the discoverers of the Aspen mining section at the head of Roaring Forks. Returning home he married in 1882 and located on the farm on which he is now living, he and his wife having bought that place on January 17, 1883. This is a fine farm of one hundred and seventy-seven acres in sections 10 and 2 of the precinct of Arago, and the place is well improved and profitably cultivated. In addition to this place, Mr. Waggoner is the owner of eight hundred and forty acres in Cherry county, this state, and is quite well circumstanced. Mr. Waggoner has vivid recollections of pioneer conditions hereabout and recalls the days when as a boy of seven he followed three yoke of oxen, dropping corn from a sack slung over his shoulder, working early and late helping in the improvement and development of his father's farm. The habit of early rising acquired in those days has stuck to him all his life and five o'clock in the morning, winter and summer, sees him "on the job" even to this day. In those days, Mr. Waggoner recalls, corn bread was the staple article of diet, very little wheat bread being used hereabout at that time, and the children of the family being treated to white bread on Sundays only. He recalls the time when he sold his hogs for two dollars and fifty cents a hundredweight, corn for seventeen cents and wheat for forty-five cents, hauling to the markets at Preston and Falls City. Mr. Waggoner is a Democrat and has served the public in the capacity of school director of his local district.

On January 10, 1882, in this county, Riley D. Waggoner was united in marriage to Martha J. Anderson, who was born in Holt county, Missouri, September 1, 1857, daughter of John R. and Jane (Bowman) Anderson, natives of Tennessee, the former born on November 11, 1819, and the latter, July 18, 1818, who were married in Montgomery county, Indiana, to which county their respective parents had moved in pioneer days. About 1844 John R. Anderson and his wife came West and settled in Holt county, Missouri, where they remained until 1863, in which year they moved over into Richardson county and here spent the remainder of their lives. John R. Anderson became one of the most substantial landowners in Richardson county, the owner of six hundred acres of fine land in the precinct of Arago, besides land in the vicinity of Falls City and over in Missouri. He also at one time owned the old Union House at Falls City, the hotel at that time being known

as the Minnick House, which he bought from Minnick. Mr. Anderson died on May 17, 1879, and his widow survived him for many years, her death occurring on September 29, 1900. During the last thirty years of her life she was blind. John R. Anderson and his wife were the parents of nine children.

To Riley D. and Martha J. (Anderson) Waggoner four children have been born, namely: Jessie L., wife of Edward Durfee, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Pearl, who married George L. Vaughn, of Arago precinct, and has two children, Elmo and Imo; Daniel B., who is living on his father's ranch in Cherry county and who married Mary Elam, daughter of Mansford Elam and wife, of this county, and Ruby D., who married Albert Burke, of Falls City, and has one child, a daughter, Ruby. Mr. and Mrs. Waggoner have ever taken an interested part in the general good works and social activities of the community, which they have seen develop from pioneer days.

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#### WARD K. KNIGHT.

Ward K. Knight, well-known and up-to-date photographer at Falls City, was born and reared in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, but has been a resident of the West since he was eighteen years of age and of Falls City for the past seventeen or eighteen years. He was born on October 6, 1874, son of George H. and Frances A. (Kimball) Knight, natives of New York state and of New Hampshire, respectively, and both representatives of old Colonial families and of Revolutionary stock. George H. Knight located at Cleveland in 1868, after a trip West, engaged in the confectionery business there and was thus engaged at the time of his death in March, 1892. In August of that year his widow and her son, the subject of this sketch, came to Nebraska and located at Beatrice, later moving to Falls City, where they now reside, Mrs. Knight making her home with her son in the latter's beautiful home on "The Boulevard" in the north end of the city.

Upon locating at Beatrice in 1892 Ward K. Knight became employed in a photograph gallery in that city and there learned the details of modern photography, becoming a very skilled artisan in that line. On January 8, 1900, he moved to Falls City and there bought a photograph gallery that had been in operation in an upstairs establishment at the corner of Stone and Seventeenth streets. Upon taking possession of that establishment he



immediately made numerous improvements in the way of modern and strictly up-to-date equipment and it was not long until the admirable quality of his work began to attract wide attention hereabout. As the demands of a discriminating public grew he gradually added to his equipment until he now has one of the best-appointed photograph galleries in this part of the state and is doing a fine business. In June, 1913, Mr. Knight established a branch gallery at Stella and has since devoted one day in each week (Monday) to the photographic needs of the people of that enterprising village. Mr. Knight has given considerable attention to the general business affairs of the city and is a stockholder in the Falls City State Bank. He is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, though not a seeker after public office.

On September 4, 1901, Ward K. Knight was united in marriage to Lydia May Peck, who was born on a farm in the precinct of Ohio, this county, June 18, 1880, daughter of Urias and Mary A. (Miller) Peck, natives of Pennsylvania and the latter of whom is still living in this county. Urias Peck was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1852, son of Elias Peck, who came to Nebraska with his family in the spring of 1873 and settled in this county, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring here in April, 1909, he then being ninety-three years of age. Urias Peck was twenty-one years of age when he came to this county and some years later he returned to his old home in Pennsylvania and on September 11, 1878, was there married to Mary A. Miller, who was born on October 17, 1855. He had already acquired an excellent farm in the precinct of Ohio in this county and after his marriage established his home on that farm and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on January 11, 1897. He was the father of six children, two of whom, Robert Milton and Ruth, are deceased, Mrs. Knight having three brothers living, Henry Clay Peck, a farmer in Ohio precinct; Frank Peck, who is engaged in the draying business at Verdon, this county, and William K. Peck, who is farming the old home place in Ohio precinct. The mother of these children later married Ephraim Peck, of Ohio precinct, and is still living there. The Pecks are members of the Church of the Brethren and have ever taken an active part in the good works of their home community.

To Ward K. and Lydia May (Peck) Knight three children have been born, two sons and a daughter, Frances Mary, born on July 21, 1902, one son died in infancy, April 7, 1907, and Herbert Ward, July 6, 1909. The Knights have one of the finest homes in the city, located on "The Boulevard," and take a proper part in the social and cultural activities of their

home town. Mrs. Knight also is a skilled photographer and is of much assistance to her husband in his artistic work. She is a member of the local lodge of the Rebekahs and takes much interest in the affairs of the same. Mr. Knight is a prominent Odd Fellow and a member of the encampment of that order, as well as of the Rebekahs and is also a member of the Royal Highlanders.

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### CHARLES LUKE HUSTEAD, M. D.

Dr. Charles Luke Hustead, of Falls City, one of the best-known young physicians in that city and who is now serving as county and city physician, was born at Linn, in Washington county, Kansas, July 12, 1884; son of Silas D. and Caroline (Shepley) Hustead, natives of Iowa, the former of whom was the son of Silas D. Hustead, a native of Virginia, and the latter a daughter of Massachusetts parents, Doctor Hustead thus being of sterling old Virginia and New England stock. The Husteads moved from Iowa to Kansas in 1881 and settled at Linn. Silas D. Hustead was first a farmer and then engaged in the restaurant business, later becoming engaged in the grain business and was thus engaged until his retirement in 1912 and removal to Falls City, where he is now living.

Doctor Hustead received excellent scholastic preparation for his profession. Upon completing the course in the high school at Belleville, Kansas, he taught school a couple of terms and then took a course in a commercial college at Omaha, meanwhile pursuing his medical studies, and then entered the medical department of Creighton University, from which he was graduated in 1912, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Upon receiving his diploma Doctor Hustead opened an office for the practice of his profession at Rapid City, South Dakota, but three months later, not finding things to his liking there, moved to Falls City, opening an office there in August, 1912, and has since been engaged in practice in that city. The Doctor has well-appointed offices and has built up an extensive practice. He is a member of the Richardson County Medical Society, a member of the Nebraska State Medical Society and of the American Medical Association, in the deliberations of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest, and keeps fully abreast of the wonderful advances that are being made in his profession these days. In May, 1914, Doctor Hustead was appointed city physician for Falls City and in June, 1915, was appointed county physician and in 1916 was reappointed city physician. He is the district examiner for the



Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York and the local examiner for the Mutual Life Insurance Company of St. Paul, the National Life Insurance Association of Des Moines and the Mutual Life Insurance Company of Kansas City. He is an active member of the Falls City Rifle Club, a patriotic organization whose practice is under the direction of officers of the United States army. Doctor Hustead is a member of the board of registration having in charge the registration of all Richardson county young men subject to military service in the Great War.

In 1913 Dr. Charles L. Hustead was united in marriage to Rosa L. Kretzschmar, of Omaha, daughter of F. H. Kretzschmar and wife, and to this union has been born one child, a son, Charles Luke, Jr. Doctor and Mrs. Hustead have a pleasant home at Falls City and take a proper interest in the general social and cultural affairs of their home town. The Doctor is an independent Republican and, fraternally, is affiliated with the Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Woodmen of the World and the Central Protective Association, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### THOMAS C. CUNNINGHAM.

Thomas C. Cunningham, an honored veteran of the Civil War, former sheriff of Richardson county, former clerk of the district court and a substantial retired farmer of the precinct of Liberty, now living at Shubert, is a native of the neighboring state of Missouri, was reared in eastern Iowa and has been a resident of this county since the spring of 1857, when he and his elder brother came out here and located a pre-emption claim northwest of Falls City, where their parents later located. He was born on April 28, 1843, a son of William F. and Sarah A. (Wilson) Cunningham, who in the fall of that same year moved from Missouri to eastern Iowa, where they remained until they came to Nebraska in 1858 and became pioneers of this county.

William F. Cunningham was born in Pennsylvania in 1808, a representative of the third generation of his family in this country, and there received a university education, preparing himself for teaching. He later went to New Orleans, where he opened a private school, but the contact with the institution of slavery in that city became so unbearable to him that he

presently left there and came on up the river and located in Missouri, where he established a school and where he married, but his ardent Abolition views soon convinced him that Missouri was no place for him and in the fall of 1843 he moved with his family to Lee county, Iowa, where he was made principal of the town schools and where he established his home, remaining there until in 1858, when, as noted above, he came over into Nebraska and settled on a farm seven miles northwest of Falls City, which his sons had entered there one year before. On that farm his wife died in 1863 and he afterward returned to Iowa and years later went to live with a son in California, where he died in 1892, he then being eighty-four years of age. It was during the early period of his residence in Missouri that William F. Cunningham met and married Sarah A. Wilson, who was born in Kentucky in 1820, a representative of the third generation of her family in this country, and whose parents had moved from Kentucky into Missouri. To that union were born six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Ebenezer E., a pioneer of Richardson county, who later went to California, where he has since resided, living in South San Francisco; Mrs. Sarah A. Cook, of Topeka, Kansas; Cyrus, who died in 1877; Lorenzo Dow, who is now living at Scottsville, Kansas, and Alonzo, of Chase county, this state.

Reared in a college town in eastern Iowa, to which place his parents had moved from Missouri when he was but an infant in arms, Thomas C. Cunningham's boyhood was spent amid refining influences and he still recalls that he never saw a drunken man until he came to Nebraska, his first sight of a man under the influence of liquor having been gained at a shooting-match held at Salem back in pioneer days, one of his neighbors having won the day's prize, a quarter of beef. The "refreshments" for the occasion consisted of whisky set out in gallon buckets into which the settlers freely dipped with tin cups, with the result that there was much drunkenness. Mr. Cunningham's abhorrence of liquor was further strengthened on that occasion and he has always remained a temperate man. It was in the month of May, 1857, that Thomas C. Cunningham, then just past fourteen years of age, came over into the then Territory of Nebraska with his elder brother, Ebenezer E. Cunningham, and helped the latter make the initial improvements on a tract of land he had pre-empted in the precinct of Ohio, this county, about seven miles northwest of Falls City, the place on which their parents settled the next year, and he helped to build up that pioneer farm. In 1860 he "hired out" with a freighting outfit at Nebraska City and was



for a year thereafter engaged in freighting along the old overland trails across the plains to the Rockies, the other end of the freight line being at Central City, and was thus engaged when the Civil War broke out. In March, 1862, he then being but eighteen years of age, Mr. Cunningham enlisted for service in the Union army and went to the front as a member of Company C, Fifth Missouri Cavalry, with which command he served until mustered out on June 22, 1863. He straightway re-enlisted, as a member of Company D, Twelfth Missouri Cavalry, and with that command served until finally discharged on March 9, 1866, nearly a year after the close of the war. In the early part of his service Mr. Cunningham was mainly engaged in scout duty, one of his early engagements having been at the battle of Tupelo, Mississippi. During a later engagement about one hundred miles south of Nashville he was taken prisoner by the enemy, but twenty days later made his escape by night and was able to rejoin his command at Nashville. In the summer of 1865 the Twelfth Missouri Cavalry was sent West to take part in the campaign against the Indians and on that service Mr. Cunningham took part in the battle of Powder River. In the fall he was stationed at Ft. Laramie, and from there went to Julesburg on the Platte river trail and from there to Ft. McPherson, thence to the Solomon river county in Kansas, returning to Ft. McPherson, and was finally mustered out in April of 1866.

Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Cunningham returned to the home farm in the precinct of Ohio, this county, and for some little time thereafter was engaged in farming, but he presently went to Falls City, where for four years he was engaged in the livery business. In the fall of 1873 he was elected sheriff of Richardson county and served in that office for four years, that being at a time when the duties of sheriff here were of a somewhat more strenuous character than at the present day, and to his record as plainsman, soldier and Indian fighter he added the further record of a most efficient officer of the law and a terror to evil-doers hereabout. On January 1, 1878, Mr. Cunningham was appointed clerk of the district court for this county and served for two years under that appointment. He then was elected to the same office and served as an elective officer for four years, serving as district clerk for six years, during which time he added further to his record as a painstaking and capable public officer. In the meantime, in 1875, Mr. Cunningham had married and upon the completion of his term of public office he went to his quarter-section farm northwest of Verdon, in Liberty precinct, established his home there and there remained until his retirement in 1912 and removal to Shubert, where he since

has made his home, one of the best-known pioneers of Richardson county. Mr. Cunningham still owns his farm of one hundred and sixty acres north of Verdon and the same is in a fine state of cultivation and improvement, some of his neighbors being good enough to say that it is the best farm in the neighborhood. Mr. Cunningham was reared in the Presbyterian church and, politically, was for years an ardent Republican, having cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, while fighting in Alabama, but in the memorable campaign of 1912 joined the Progressives and voted for Theodore Roosevelt, while in 1916 he voted for Woodrow Wilson, thus attesting his indorsement of the administration in that difficult period. For governors of Nebraska he has voted for every Republican nominee from David Butler to A. L. Sutton.

On May 5, 1875, Thomas C. Cunningham was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary Jane (Boston) McElroy, a widow, who was born in Platte county, Missouri, December 25, 1850, daughter of Granville Boston and wife, natives of Kentucky, and who died on October 13, 1899, leaving four children, one son by her first marriage, Oscar L. McElroy, now a resident of California, and three daughters by her second marriage, Pearl, now living at St. Joseph, Missouri; Mrs. Nellie M. Stump, widow of Quentin Stump, who has a son, Robert, and Caroline, who married Leroy E. Edwards, of Shubert, and has one child, a daughter, Lucile.

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#### ALLEN FRANKLIN.

Allen Franklin, retired farmer and orchardist of Barada precinct and one of the best-known pioneers of Richardson county, is a native of the state of Illinois and has been a landowner in this county since 1868. He was born in Woodford county, Illinois, September 9, 1843, a son of Jared D. and Cynthia (Hinshaw) Franklin, natives of Connecticut and of Tennessee, respectively, whose last days were spent in Illinois. Reared in his native state, Allen Franklin remained in Illinois until he was past twenty-two years of age and then, in 1866, came West and settled in Kansas with a view to becoming a permanent resident of the Sunflower state, but two years later, in 1868, he came up into Nebraska, being induced to come by his father, who had located in Nebraska, and bought a tract of land in the precinct of Barada, in this county, and in 1870 left his Kansas prospects and located on his Richardson county land, proceeding to improve and de-





ALLEN FRANKLIN AND FAMILY.





velop the same, and after his marriage in 1872 established his home there and has ever since made that place his home, one of the most substantial pioneer residents of that part of the county.

About twenty years ago Mr. Franklin began to recognize the possibilities connected with the culture of apples in this region and in 1900 and 1901 he planted his present extensive orchard, the same long having been regarded as one of the best and most carefully tended orchards in this part of the state. Mr. Franklin is the owner of a fine place of one hundred and twenty acres and ninety acres of this is covered with an apple orchard, the output of which, in 1916, when there was only a forty-per cent crop, exceeded fifteen carloads of apples, two hundred barrels to the car; these shipments being only the select fruit, the culls and less desirable fruit being turned into the cider-mills which are operated on the place. The products of the Franklin orchard are marketed through the Fruit Growers' Association, of which Mr. Franklin and his sons are members, and the apples are all sold before leaving the orchard, the high grade of the products ever bringing the top of the market. The choice varieties of apples raised on the Franklin trees include "Black Lucks," "Virginia Beauties," "Ganos" and the "Ben Davis." In recent years Mr. Franklin's sons, Rolla and Lee Franklin, have been managing the orchards, operating under the firm name of Franklin Brothers, and the admirable appearance of the orchard plant is ample evidence of the close care they give to the same. A motor truck is used to convey the barreled fruit to the shipping point and during the season a small army of pickers are employed on the place. Though now practically retired from the active labors of the place, the elder Franklin continues, during the springs and summers, to give his earnest attention to the trees whose growth he has watched with prideful interest and is widely recognized hereabout as an authority on scientific apple culture. He also owns a farm in Louisiana and he and his wife spend their winters in that state or some other point in the Southland, returning to the old home place with the coming of the spring and the return of the apple blossoms.

In 1872, in this county, Allen Franklin was united in marriage to Mary Ellen Spickler, who died in 1875, leaving one son, Jared D., who was accidentally drowned in this Missouri river when nineteen years of age. In 1877 Mr. Franklin married Alice Margaret Mitchell, who was born in Illinois on February 20, 1857, daughter of William and Mary Mitchell, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Leonora, who married John Neimann, living three and one-half miles northwest of Verdon, and has four children, Gladys, John Allen, Millicent and Vernell; Richard Rolla,

of the firm of Franklin Brothers, orchardists, who married Katie Crouch and has four children, Marian Alice, Mabel, Richard R., Jr., and Nancy Thelma; Benjamin George, a homesteader and ranchman of Montana, who married Vesta Lively, of Falls City, and has two children, Robert Benjamin and Vernell; Anna, who is at home; L. Lee, also at home, a member of the firm of Franklin Brothers, orchardists, and Myron C., of Stella. Mr. and Mrs. Franklin are members of the Church of Christ at Barada and take a warm interest in church work, as well as in the other good works and general social activities of the community of which they have been residents since pioneer days. Mr. Franklin is a Republican, though reserving his right to vote independently on local issues, and has served as director of his local school district and has in other ways done his part in advancing the general interests of his community.

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### JOSEPH LOUIS VON BERGEN.

Joseph Louis Von Bergen, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers in the southwestern part of the county and the proprietor of a fine place and a beautiful home set in the timbered valley of the Rattlesnake in section 27 of the precinct of Nemaha, was born in that immediate vicinity, in a house just across the creek from his present residence, and has lived there all his life. He was born on February 12, 1871, son of Melchoir and Katie (Troxell) Von Bērgen, both of whom were born in the republic of Switzerland and whose last days were spent in this county, of which they were honored pioneer residents, having settled here in 1869.

Melchoir Von Bergen was born in the canton of Bern on July 3, 1834, and remained in his native Switzerland until he was twenty-seven years of age, when, in 1861, he came to this country and settled in Illinois, where he farmed for a year, at the end of which time he went to Ohio, where he engaged in the manufacture of cheese and where he married Katie Troxell, who was born in Switzerland on June 11, 1842, and who was but an infant when her parents came to this country in 1843 and settled in Ohio. Melchoir Von Bergen did well in his cheese-making enterprise in Ohio and remained there until 1869, when he decided to come West and become a Nebraska farmer. Upon coming here he bought two hundred acres of land along Rattlesnake creek in the precinct of Nemaha, in this county, and there established his home, he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives there.



Mr. Von Bergen was an excellent farmer and as he prospered in his undertaking he added to his holdings until he became the owner of six hundred and forty acres and was accounted one of the most substantial and influential farmers in that part of the county. He was a Republican and gave close attention to local civic affairs. He and his wife were active members of the Reformed church and ever took a proper part in local good works. Melchoir Von Bergen died on October 3, 1912, and his widow survived him less than a year, her death occurring on March 28, 1913. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Emma, deceased; Katie, deceased; Mrs. Lizzie Feldman, of Sabetha, over the line in Kansas; Ella, deceased; Edward, deceased, and Frederick, deceased.

J. Louis Von Bergen was reared on the home farm on the timbered banks of the Rattlesnake and received his schooling in the pioneer schools in that neighborhood. From boyhood he was an able assistant to his father in the labors of the home farm and has always been a farmer there. Upon the division of the homestead he received his share and later purchased half of the estate. To this he has added until now he is the owner of six hundred and forty acres, the greater part of which land he rents out. The home farm in section 27, where he makes his home, has two sets of buildings on it and his two other farms are also well improved. His home place is one of the most picturesque spots in that part of the country. He has a fine residence and he and his family are very pleasantly situated, indeed. In addition to his general farming and stock raising, Mr. Von Bergen gives considerable attention to the general business affairs of the community and is a stockholder in the First National Bank of Humboldt. Politically, he is a Democrat and takes a warm interest in local political affairs, but is not a seeker after public office.

On December 10, 1907, J. Louis Von Bergen was united in marriage to Amanda Fankhauser, who was born in the precinct of Speiser, this county, daughter of John Fankhouser and wife, pioneers of that precinct, and to this union three children have been born, Ruth Laverne, born on October 18, 1908; Ralph Louis, October 24, 1912, and Doris Lorene, August 10, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Von Bergen are members of the Reformed church and give their earnest attention to the various beneficences of the same, as well as to the general good works of the community and also take an interested part in the community's general social activities, helpful in promoting all agencies designed to advance the common welfare.

## MARTIN D. ULMER.

Martin D. Ulmer, one of Richardson county's best-known and most progressive farmers and the proprietor of a fine place of a quarter section in the precinct of Grant, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of this county since 1884 and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region during the past thirty years and more. He was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, September 13, 1861, son of Martin and Catherine (Shaefer) Ulmer, both natives of that same county and both of German descent, the latter of whom became a pioneer of Richardson county and here spent her last days, having come here as a widow in 1884.

Martin Ulmer was the son of Leonard Ulmer, a native of Germany, a son of Leonard Ulmer, Sr., who was a son of Thomas Ulmer. The junior Leonard, the first of his family to come to this country, married Marie Stump in his native land and in 1804 came to the United States, settling in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, where he and his wife established their home and where they reared their family. Their son, Martin Ulmer, grew to manhood on the home farm in that county and there married Catherine Shaefer, a daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth (Guintner) Shaefer, also natives of Germany, who had emigrated to the United States in 1804 and had settled in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, neighbors to the Ulmers. After his marriage Martin Ulmer established his home on a farm in his native county and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1870. In 1884 his widow disposed of her interests in Pennsylvania and with her children came to Nebraska and settled in this county. She bought a quarter of a section of land just across the highway from the farm owned by the subject of this sketch and which he bought at the same time, and there she lived until 1894, when she moved to Dawson, making her home with a son and daughter, her death occurring in 1903, she then being seventy-five years of age. She was the mother of five children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Henry (deceased), Israel, of Dawson, this county; Emanuel, of Grant precinct, and Sarah E., of Dawson. Emanuel Ulmer married Sarah Heim and has six children, Mary, Norman, Edna, Walter, Reuben and Nelson. Mary Ulmer married Charles Wuster and has two children, Orville and Miriam. Norman Ulmer married Merdeth Miller. Reuben Ulmer married True Stratton and has one child, a daughter, Evelyn.

As noted above, it was in 1884 that Martin D. Ulmer came to this



county, accompanying his widowed mother from Pennsylvania. He bought a quarter of a section of land in the precinct of Grant, the place he ever since has occupied, right across the road from the quarter section his mother bought. When he bought the place it had but slight improvements on it, a little one-room house, a tumble-down barn and a decrepit corncrib, but he went to work with energy and it was not long until he began to get results, soon having one of the best-improved farms in that neighborhood and he ever has made a point of keeping his place up to standard. His fine residence occupies a commanding site on a beautiful rise and the surrounding grove of evergreens and the adjacent vineyard lend picturesqueness to the spot. The large barn and well-ordered farm buildings are in keeping with the central establishment, the entire farm plant bearing the unmistakable imprint of its owner's progressive and up-to-date methods of doing business. Upon buying that place Mr. Ulmer found it necessary to incur a considerable indebtedness, but he soon got that paid off and has prospered in his operations. In addition to his general farming he has paid considerable attention to the raising of high-grade live stock, with particular attention to Black Angus cattle and Poland China hogs, and has done very well. He and his sister now own the farm their mother formerly owned and rent the same to advantage. Mr. Ulmer is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

On December 5, 1893, Martin D. Ulmer was united in marriage to Sophia Heim, who also was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, July 19, 1868, daughter of Jacob G. and Regina (Gross) Heim, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to this county in 1874 and settled on a farm one mile north of Dawson, becoming early recognized as among the most substantial and influential pioneers of that neighborhood. Jacob G. Heim, further and fitting reference to whom is made elsewhere in this volume, died in April, 1914, he then being eighty-two years of age, and his widow is still living in this county, now making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Emanuel Ulmer. Mr. and Mrs. Ulmer have had three children, Erma, born on May 22, 1896, who is a graduate of the Dawson high school class of 1913, and who is still at home; Wallace H., born in 1903, who died in 1904, and Mildred, born on February 15, 1909. The Ulmers have a very pleasant home and have ever taken an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of their home neighborhood and of the community at large, helpful in many ways in promoting agencies having to do with the advancement of the common welfare. Mr. Ulmer was reared a Baptist and Mrs. Ulmer

is a member of the United Evangelical church, both taking a proper part in neighborhood good works. Every member of this family has contributed liberally to the Red Cross movement and Mr. Ulmer has shown his patriotism by buying Liberty Bonds.

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### EDWARD R. HAYS, M. D.

Dr. Edward R. Hays, of Falls City, one of the best-known physicians in Richardson county, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life. He was born in the village of Humboldt on June 15, 1885, son of Dr. Peter William and Phoebe (Unland) Hays, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Illinois and the latter of whom is still living, now a resident of Falls City.

Dr. William Peter Hays, a pioneer physician of this county, was born in Pennsylvania on January 13, 1848, a son of Peter Hays, a native of Germany, whose last days were spent at Kittaning, Pennsylvania. He received his medical education in Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia and in 1877 came to Nebraska and located at Humboldt, where he married about three years later and where he was engaged in practice for fifteen years, at the end of which time, in 1892, he moved to Falls City, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring there on November 2, 1897. He was a successful practitioner and had a wide acquaintance throughout this and neighboring counties. It was in 1880, at Humboldt, that Dr. P. W. Hays was united in marriage to Phoebe Unland, of that place, who was born at Beardstown, Illinois, November 28, 1862, daughter of the Rev. Fritz and Nancy (Wagel) Unland, pioneers of Richardson county, who had settled in Humboldt in the early seventies. The Rev. Fratz Unland was a Hanoverian, born at Osenbrück, near Hanover, in the kingdom of that name, August 16, 1829, who emigrated to this country in the days of his young manhood and settled in Illinois, where he presently married Nancy Wagel, who was born at Lexington, Kentucky, in 1834, and whose mother, Phoebe (Todd) Wagel, was a first cousin of Mary (Todd) Lincoln, wife of President Lincoln. In the early seventies he came with his family to this county and located at Humboldt, where he spent the remainder of his life, an earnest minister of the German Methodist church, his death occurring on May 12, 1906. His widow survived him a little less than a year, her death occurring on April 1, 1907. The Rev. Fritz Unland was the pioneer minister of his



faith in this county and for a long time the only one. Upon coming out here there was no formal place of worship for the people of his faith and until he presently was able to secure the erection of a German Methodist church at Humboldt he was compelled to hold services in the private homes of his parishioners. To Dr. P. W. and Phoebe (Unland) Hays three children were born, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Emma, wife of Julius Ruegge, manager of the Towle Lumber Company at Falls City, and Grace, who is now a student in the State University. In 1901 the mother of these children married Amos Gantt, of Falls City, who died in January, 1914, leaving one child, a son, Ray Gantt. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Gantt has continued to make her home at Falls City, where she is very comfortably situated.

Edward R. Hays was about seven years of age when his parents moved from Humboldt to Falls City and in the latter place he grew to manhood. Upon completing the course in the high school there in 1902 he entered Kansas City College and after a two-years course there, preparatory to completing his medical studies, he entered Ensworth Medical College at St. Joseph, Missouri, and was graduated from that institution in 1906. Upon receiving his degree Doctor Hays returned to his home county and opened an office for the practice of his profession at Dawson, where he was engaged in practice for four years, at the end of which time he moved to Omaha and was there engaged in practice for two years or more, or until 1913, when he returned to Falls City and opened an office in his home town and has ever since been successfully engaged in practice there. The Doctor has a well-appointed office at Sixteenth and Stone streets and has built up an extensive practice. He is a member of the Richardson County Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and keeps fully abreast of the wonderful advancement being made in his profession these days. In 1911 he took a post-graduate course at the Chicago Polyclinic and in the Post-Graduate School at Chicago and in 1912 took a further and valuable course in the Mayo clinics at Rochester, Minnesota. Doctor Hays is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, an ardent advocate of good government.

On July 7, 1912, Dr. Edward R. Hays was united in marriage to Nellie M. Cain, of Falls City, daughter of J. R. Cain and wife, the former of whom, an old settler of this county, who came here in 1856, was for thirty years in charge of the bank at Stella and who is now living retired at Falls City. Doctor and Mrs. Hays are members of the Episcopal church and take a proper interest in church work and in the general social and cultural activities of

their home town. The Doctor is a Mason and is also affiliated with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, with the Knights and Ladies of Security and with the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

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### JULIUS SMITH.

The record of a man like the late Julius Smith, a successful agriculturist and widely-known public official and honored citizen of Richardson county, is well worth preserving on the pages of local history, for it contains many lessons of value to the youth just starting out on life's serious activities. Mr. Smith was born, March 5, 1837, in Germany, a son of Carl Smith, where his parents lived and died, his father having taught school there for a period of fifty years in his home town. When fourteen years old Julius Smith immigrated to America, landing in New Orleans, Louisiana, in the spring of 1852, and soon thereafter, in April, he started north in search of employment, ascending the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, landing at St. Joseph, Missouri. He worked out as a farm hand in that locality during the summer months and in the winter time attended school. In 1856 he came to Richardson county and was a partner with his brother, Charles Smith, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. In the spring of 1868 he moved to a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Nemaha township, only fifty acres of which had been broke and there stood a small, rude house on the land, but little other improvements. He went to work industriously and in due course of time had developed a productive and well improved farm, building a comfortable stone house, which was destroyed in the tornado of October 15, 1877, which swept the valley of Rock creek in which lay the Smith farm, which was almost completely devastated, all buildings, fences, trees being demolished and killing a horse, cattle and hogs and sweeping the chickens away, the Smith place being in the direct part of the great hurricane. Charles Smith, the ten-year-old son of the subject of this memoir was killed, and in fact, all of the family, with the exception of Rosa Smith, were injured. But Julius Smith was a man of indomitable courage and energy and, nothing daunted, he set to work at once to replace the buildings and restock his farm, building another good home, by the help of his neighbors. It was the first, and in fact, has been the only storm of cyclonic proportions, to visit southeastern Nebraska. Mr. Smith





MR. AND MRS. J. L. SMITH.





was a man of sound judgment and wise foresight, as well as a man of industry and progressive ideas, and he prospered with advancing years, becoming one of the leading general farmers and stock raisers of his precinct. He added one hundred and sixty acres on the southeast of his home place, making a total of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land. It is one of the most desirable farms in the county and the home is an attractive and commodious one in the midst of beautiful surroundings.

Julius Smith was married on November 16, 1862, to Rosa Lee Oakes, who was born, November 28, 1845, in St. Louis, Missouri. She is a daughter of Nicholas and Margaret (Schmitt) Oakes, both natives of Germany, from which country they came to America while single and were married in St. Louis. Mr. Oakes died in 1845, after which his widow married John Schmitt, who moved with the family to Illinois and in the spring of 1854 removed to Brown county, Kansas, where his death occurred.

To Julius Smith and wife the following children were born: Lizzie, born on February 5, 1864, married Daniel Kelly, lives in Omaha and they have three children, Charles, Earl and Ellen; Maggie, born on September 15, 1865, is the wife of Charnock Williamson, a farmer of Nemaha precinct, and they have three children living, Floyd, Robert and Loring; Charles, born on November 3, 1867, was killed in the storm mentioned in a preceding paragraph; Rosa L., born August 10, 1869, is the wife of Lambert Whitney, a farmer of Nemaha precinct, and they have two children, Ralph and Edith; Ellen, born on March 30, 1871, is the wife of George Cade, who lives near Ottawa, Kansas, and they have five children, Charles, Lila, Cecil, Harold and Margaret; Laura, October 27, 1872, is the wife of Frank Morton, a farmer of near Bern, Kansas, and they have one child, Pearl; Julius E., December 17, 1878, died when four years old; William E., May 29, 1883, lives near Fairbury, Nebraska, married Ethel Emmert, and they have three children, Caryl, Opal and Monte; Mabel C., November 30, 1886, is the wife of Elmer Sowder, a farmer of Nemaha precinct, and they have one child, John Julius; Isaac F., March 20, 1889, married Ora Crook, and they live on the Smith homestead, and they have one child, Beulah Lee. Mrs. Rosa Lee (Oakes) Smith still lives on the home place. She is a member of the Reformed church.

Politically, Julius Smith was a Democrat and was active and influential in local party affairs. He was elected representative from Richardson county to the Nebraska Legislature in 1892 and again in 1896, thus serving

two terms in a manner that reflected much credit upon his ability and integrity and to the eminent satisfaction of all concerned, irrespective of party alignment. He made an excellent record and accomplished much for his home locality and the state in general, making his influence felt for the good of the masses. He introduced a number of important bills. He kept well posted on current topics of the day and could discuss intelligently any theme of importance before the people, being a miscellaneous reader and a close observer. He was a man of high ideals, upright in all his dealings with his fellow men, a good neighbor and citizen in the best sense of the terms, and when he was called to his eternal rest on June 20, 1907, at the age of seventy years, deep and lasting regret was felt throughout his locality.

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### J. ROCK WILLIAMSON.

J. Rock Williamson, an honored veteran of the Civil War, former sheriff of Richardson county and a substantial retired farmer now living at Humboldt, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of this county since 1882 and is one of the best-known men in the county. He was born at Duncansville, a village adjacent to Hollidaysburg, the county seat of Huntington (afterward Blair) county, Pennsylvania, January 11, 1841, son of Joshua and Mary (Neff) Williamson, the former a native of that same county, of Welsh descent, and the latter, of Hagerstown, Maryland, a daughter of the Rev. Jonathan Neff, a Dunker preacher, of German descent. Joshua Williamson was a smith and wagon-maker and was thus engaged at Duncansville for twenty-five years, at the end of which time, in 1852, he moved to Illinois, bought a farm in Boone county, that state, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in 1876.

Having been but eleven years of age when his parents moved from Pennsylvania to Illinois, J. Rock Williamson completed his schooling in the latter state and there grew to manhood on the home farm and was living there when the Civil War broke out. On August 7, 1862, he enlisted for service as a member of Company G, One Hundred and Fifth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, of which company his brother, Capt. Samuel Williamson, was commander, and served with that command until the close of the war, being discharged on June 7, 1865, after a service of two years and ten months. This company was known as the Nash Guards, the first commander being Capt. John B. Nash, a brother-in-law, who went into camp at Dixon, Illinois.



Another brother, Thomas E. Williamson, was a member of the company. In the fall of 1862, shortly after he was mustered in, Mr. Williamson was sent from Camp Douglas, at Chicago, to Kentucky, his command being aligned there on the Frankfort pike to oppose the advance of Confederate forces north. Thence he was transferred to Ft. Negley, where he was engaged in garrison duty for a year and during which time he was compelled to spend some time in a hospital at Louisville on account of a serious attack of dysentery brought on by drinking unwholesome water and suffered so severely from the effects of that attack that his system never wholly recovered from the same. Upon leaving the convalescent camp he was detailed as a sergeant of the secret police and was thus detailed until July 4, 1864, when he rejoined his regiment. He participated in the battle of Peach Tree Creek, took further part in the Atlanta campaign and marched with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea. Once while on this march he was detailed with two others to forage duty and was returning through the woods from a nearby smokehouse laden with hams and other provender, when he encountered a party of ten rebels. With prompt presence of mind he told his two companions to join him in such a yell as they never had uttered before and the three thus set up such a commotion that the astonished "Rebs" evidently thought an entire regiment of "Yanks" was bearing down upon them and incontinently took to their heels, leaving the foragers a clear way back to camp with their much-needed plunder. Mr. Williamson was present at the fall of Savannah and also proved himself an able forager there. After Savannah he marched with the army up through the Carolinas, took part in the fight with Johnston's army at Goldsboro and was wounded in the left shoulder at the battle of Averysborough; thence on to Richmond and from there to Alexandria and thence into the City of Washington, where he participated in the Grand Review at the close of the war, and after a week in camp at Bladensburg was sent back with his regiment to Chicago, where he was mustered out.

Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Williamson entered a business college at Rock Creek, Illinois, and was graduated from the same with the honors of his class in 1867. He then went to Chicago and after a brief stay there came West, at St. Joseph taking a boat for Ft. Benton, proceeding thence to Helena, Montana, where he became employed in a clothing store at a salary of one hundred dollars a month and his board. After a month of that sort of service, however, he had enough of it and started working on a ranch; but a couple of months later helped his employer move to Diamond City and set up a boarding house. He later was employed in the

mines and remained there until 1869, when he returned to Illinois, by way of Omaha, in which city he made a stay of some little time. That fall he went from his home in Illinois back to his boyhood home in Pennsylvania and was there married. In the spring of 1870 he returned to Illinois and located at Cherry Valley, where he remained for a year, at the end of which time he returned to Pennsylvania and there opened a general store, remaining engaged in business there for four years. He then spent a couple of years as a fireman on the Pennsylvania railroad, was promoted to the post of engineer and in that latter capacity continued in the railway service for six years. In 1882 Mr. Williamson decided that he had had enough of railroading and would prefer farming. With that end in view he came to Nebraska and bought a farm of eighty acres, just east of Humboldt, in this county, and settled down to farming. In 1896 he was elected sheriff of Richardson county and served in that capacity for one term of two years, being the first incumbent in that office after the completion of the new jail. During that period of public service Mr. Williamson made his home in Falls City, the county seat, but upon the completion of his official term he returned to his farm and there continued to reside until 1913, when he retired from the farm and moved to Humboldt, where he and his wife are now living and where they are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Williamson is an ardent Republican and has for years been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in this county.

On August 12, 1869, at Duncansville, Pennsylvania, J. Rock Williamson was united in marriage to Margaret Jane Funk, who was born in that village on April 16, 1848, daughter of James and Susan Funk, also natives of Pennsylvania, the former of whom was a merchant and an extensive manufacturer of lime, the proprietor of the largest kilns in Pennsylvania, making a specialty of glass-making lime and ballast for railroads. Mr. and Mrs. Williamson have four children, namely: Alice Alpha, who married Charles E. Barngrover, of Denver, and has three children, Victor, Marguerite and Perry; Mrs. Gertrude Anderson, of Omaha, who has one child, a daughter, Laura Jane; Mrs. Mary Major Emigh, of Omaha, who has six sons, George Rock, Guy and Wayne (twins), Nicholas, William and Donald; and Guy C., a farmer, of Elwood, this state, who married Minnie Clift and has three children, Margaret, Dale and Inez May. The Williamsons are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and have ever taken a proper part in local good works. Mr. Williamson is a past commander of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Humboldt, William Mix Post No. 66, and since



1898 has served as officer of the day of that patriotic organization. He is past master of the local lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, having been master of the lodge in 1890, and is also a member of the local lodges of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Knights and Ladies of Security, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### WILLIAM F. STOLTZ.

Among the well-known and progressive farmers of Porter precinct, Richardson county, is William F. Stoltz, owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land of prime quality in section 35. He was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, on October 20, 1878, the son of William and Mary (Ulmer) Stoltz, also natives of the same county and state. William Stoltz was a son of Jacob Stoltz, a native of Germany. Mary Ulmer was the daughter of Isaac Ulmer and wife.

William Stoltz came from Pennsylvania to Richardson county in 1886 and located between Dawson and Stella, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land. He moved his family to the farm in the following spring. William Stoltz was born in 1847 and died on March 20, 1915. His wife, Mary Ulmer, was born on May 31, 1849, and died on January 11, 1901. They were the parents of the following children: Charles E., Jacob F., who lives in Aurora, Illinois; Isaac H., of Onago, Kansas; Samuel, who lives in Chicago; William F., who lives on the home farm; Ezra W., of Jerome, Idaho; Daniel, who died in 1878; Martin, who died in 1896, and Mrs. Clara Bobbitt, who lives in Jerome, Idaho, and Hattie, who lives in Porter precinct. Of these children, Charles E. was educated in the Richardson county schools and Jacob was graduated from the Stella high school and the University of Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Stoltz were married on June 22, 1869.

William F. Stoltz, the subject of this sketch, was seven years old when his parents came to this county from Pennsylvania. He attended the district schools and later went to the high school of Stella. When he had completed the latter course, he attended the Lincoln Business College. Thus equipped by preparatory training he began working for himself. He started to work as a farm hand in 1901 and continued for one year, and in 1902 he rented his present farm from his father and from his maternal uncle, Daniel Ulmer. In 1908 he bought one hundred and sixty acres of excellent land and later,

when the estate was settled in 1916, he bought out the other heirs. In 1905 he erected a substantial well-planned house and here he and his family make their home, comfortably situated.

On October 2, 1904, William F. Stoltz was united in marriage to Effie Tolly, daughter of R. J. and Julia (McQueen) Tolly, natives of Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Tolly were among the early settlers of Richardson county and are now living near Stella on a farm. Mr. and Mrs. Stoltz are the parents of one child named Carroll, born on September 21, 1905. Mr. Stoltz and his wife are members of the Baptist church, of which they are liberal supporters and in the activities of which they are earnestly interested. Mr. Stoltz is a Democrat, but has never sought public office.

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#### CLAUDE M. LINN.

Examples that impress force of character on all who study them, are worthy of record in the annals of history wherever they are found. By a few general observations the biographer hopes to convey in these lines some idea of the personal characteristics and importance to the locality of Claude M. Linn, president of the Home State Bank of Humboldt, Richardson county.

Mr. Linn was born, February 27, 1873, in Pawnee county, Nebraska. He is a son of James L. and Martha (Oviatt) Linn, natives of Tazewell county, Illinois, and Hardin county, Iowa, respectively. They came to Pawnee county, Nebraska, in 1870, and took up a homestead two miles west of Table Rock and there they became very comfortably established through their industry and perseverance. After farming for some time the father engaged in mercantile pursuits in Table Rock, handling lumber and grain, in partnership with a Mr. Cooper, under the firm name of Linn & Cooper. Later, in the early eighties, this firm built the first flouring-mill in Humboldt, Richardson county, moving to that town in 1882, operating a flour-mill and lumber and grain business. Finally, he dissolved partnership with Mr. Cooper, Mr. Linn taking charge of the lumber business and Mr. Cooper managing the mill.

James L. Linn was active in public affairs, and a staunch Republican. He served a term in the state Legislature from Pawnee county, and later was elected state senator from his district, which embraced Pawnee and Richardson counties. He served two terms, and made a most commendable record. His death occurred in 1891. His widow is now living in California. To



James L. Linn and wife six children were born, named as follows: Mrs. Eugenia Perrin, who lives in California; Fred R., in Montana; Claude, of this sketch; Mrs. Florence Grinstead, Ray L. and Mrs. Georgia Unkefer, all live in California.

Claude M. Linn received his education in the Humboldt high school. He began his business career when eighteen years old, working in his father's lumber yard, with whom he remained until the latter's death, then took charge of the business which he continued to conduct until 1902, when he turned his attention to the grain and milling business, in partnership with O. A. Cooper, under the firm name of Linn & Cooper. In October, 1907 they dissolved partnership, Mr. Cooper taking charge of the mill and Mr. Linn the grain elevator, which he is still operating, together with a chain of seven others, all located in southeastern Nebraska, except one in western Nebraska and one in western Kansas. He also owns a farm of two hundred and fifty acres west of Humboldt, which he looks after personally, and makes a specialty of raising hogs and cattle.

The Home State Bank of Humboldt, of which Mr. Linn is president, was organized on February 1, 1915, by C. M. Linn, Otto Kotouc, S. M. Philpot, R. R. Philpot, Dr. G. G. Gandy, Edward Uhri, Louis Stalder, L. L. Davis and Henry Schwass. The capital stock was twenty-five thousand dollars. The bank has had a steady and satisfactory growth and is doing a large business. It owns its own substantial brick building, the old First National Bank building, which has been remodeled and new and modern fixtures installed. The deposits now (1917) amount to a total of three hundred thousand dollars, and the total resources are three hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars. The bank makes a specialty of farm loans and does a general banking business. The present officers are Claude M. Linn, president; R. R. Philpot, vice-president; Otto Kotouc, cashier; Glen D. Jenkins, assistant cashier; directors, C. M. Linn, R. R. Philpot, Otto Koutoc, Dr. G. G. Gandy and Edward Uhri. The splendid success of this sound and popular institution has been due very largely to the able and honest management of its president, who is regarded throughout the community as a man of exceptional executive ability, foresight and integrity.

Mr. Linn is also president of the Humboldt Brick Company, which was established in 1909, the capital stock of which is forty thousand dollars. It is equipped with all modern appliances and has a capacity of fifty thousand brick daily—building and paving brick, made in gray and other shades. The output now covers a wide territory in Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota and other states. Brick from this plant have been used in

many notable buildings, including the foundation work of the government building in Falls City, the State University buildings at Lincoln, the Burlington railroad round-house and shops at Havelock, Nebraska. Thirty men are constantly employed, with a pay-roll amounting to two thousand dollars a month. The pronounced success of this important concern has also been due to the enterprise and keen business acumen of Mr. Linn. Louis Von Bergen is vice-president; I. Shirley, secretary, and W. Skalak, treasurer.

There is a practically inexhaustible shale deposit, over ninety feet deep, on Mr. Linn's farm, which makes his land very valuable.

Mr. Linn was married in 1894, to Ora Wittwer, who was born on the home farm southeast of Humboldt, and there she grew to womanhood and was educated in the local schools. She is a daughter of Gottlieb Wittwer, one of the successful farmers and respected citizens of Nemaha precinct. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Linn, namely: Claude M., Jr., assisting his father in business, and Donald, now attending school.

Politically, Mr. Linn is a Republican and is active in party affairs. Fraternally, he belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Chapter and Commandery at Tecumseh, Nebraska, also the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Lincoln. Personally, he is an obliging and companionable gentleman.

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#### EDWARD E. DURFEE.

Edward E. Durfee, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and seventy-four acres in section 28 of Arago precinct, this county, and one of the best-known stockmen in Richardson county, was born on that farm and has spent all his life there, with the exception of the time spent in high school at Falls City and in the State University of Missouri. He was born on January 11, 1882, son of Edmond J. and Maria L. (Montgomery) Durfee, the former of whom, a native of Iowa and a pioneer of Richardson county, is still living, now a resident of Falls City, and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume.

Reared on the home farm, the place on which he is now living, Edward E. Durfee received his early schooling in the district schools of that neighborhood and supplemented the same by a course in the Falls City high school, from which he was graduated in 1901. He later, during the years 1903, 1904 and 1905, attended the Missouri State University at Columbia, taking





EDWARD E. DURFEE AND FAMILY.





there the courses in law and agriculture, and upon his return to the farm began to build up a business as a breeder of pure-bred live stock, in which he has met with much success, long having been regarded as one of the most successful breeders in this part of the state, his spring and fall sales of fine stock being largely attended and the products of his well-equipped stock farm bringing excellent prices, his specialties being Shorthorn cattle, Percheron horses, mules of the "Mammoth" type and Poland China hogs.

On August 26, 1903, Edward E. Durfee was united in marriage to Jessie Waggoner, a graduate of the common schools and a student of shorthand in the business college at Falls City, who also was born in the precinct of Arago, this county, March 9, 1883, daughter of Riley D. and Martha (Anderson) Waggoner, pioneers of that precinct, who are still living there and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume. To this union six children have been born, namely Marie, deceased, and Opal, Agnes, Blanche, Eugene and Martha. Mr. and Mrs. Durfee are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an interested part in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of their neighborhood. Politically, Mr. Durfee is a Democrat; and, fraternally, is affiliated with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Highlanders, in the affairs of which organizations he takes an active interest.

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#### ROMANE TIMERMAN.

The late Romane Timerman, who was an honored veteran of the Civil War and one of the best-known and most substantial pioneer farmers in Richardson county and who died at his home in the precinct of East Muddy in the spring of 1916, was a native of New York state, but had been a resident of this county since the spring of 1869, having come here shortly after his marriage in Illinois and thus was accounted one of the pioneers of the northern part of this county. He developed a fine farm in East Muddy precinct and his widow is still living there, very comfortably situated.

Romane Timerman was born on December 24, 1844, and was but a child when his parents, Jacob and Rosina Timerman, further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, they having been pioneers of Richardson county, moved with their family from New York to Illinois and in this latter state he grew to manhood and was living when the Civil War broke out. He and three of his brothers enlisted and went to the front, he going

out as bugler for Company B, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, with which command he served until the close of the war, participating in many of the most notable battles and engagements of the war. Upon the completion of his military service Romane Timerman returned to his home in Illinois and was there married in January, 1869. In the following April he and his wife, with the others of the Timerman family, came to Nebraska, driving through with household goods and other chattels sufficient to set up housekeeping and get a start on a pioneer farm, crossing the river at Brownville and coming on down into Richardson county, settling in the precinct of West Muddy, it not being long until the Timermans became one of the best established families in the northern part of the county. Romane Timerman was a good farmer and he prospered in his operations from the very beginning, gradually adding to his holdings there until at the time of his death he was the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres on which he had a very comfortable home and one of the best farm plants in that section. Mr. Timerman was a Republican and ever took a good citizen's interest in local political affairs, but was not an office seeker, being content to reserve his activities to his home and farm, in which he took much pleasure and delight. He was an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Stella and took a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization. Mr. Timerman died on May 11, 1916, and his widow is still living on the old home place, which has been her home since pioneer days.

On January 20, 1869, at Geneseo, Illinois, Romane Timerman was united in marriage to Caroline Luckcuck, who was born near Buffalo, New York, April 11, 1850, daughter of William and Eliza (Heathridge) Luckcuck, natives of England, who later became residents of Illinois. Both William Luckcuck and his wife were reared in the city of London and they were married in Westminster Abbey, an unusual distinction. After their marriage they came to the United States and settled in the city of New York, where they reared a large family and where Mr. Luckcuck was engaged in the mercantile business. He later moved to Buffalo and then bought a large tract of land in Erie county, New York, and engaged in dealing in imported horses. He remained there until 1860, when he moved with his family to the state of Illinois and there spent the remainder of his life, the owner of a large tract of land in Henry county, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Timerman were born four children, three sons and one daughter, namely: George H., who is the proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in the vicinity of Stella, this county; Charles, who is at home, managing the home farm for



his mother; Louis, a farmer of the precinct of West Muddy, who married Rosa Workman and has two sons, Dale and Louis, and Ida Belle, who died in infancy. Mrs. Timerman is a member of the Baptist church and has ever taken an interested part in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community of which she has been a resident since pioneer days, and has done much to help promote various agencies designed to advance the common welfare thereabout.

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### FULTON PETERS.

A sturdy veteran plainsman and early pioneer of Richardson county is Fulton Peters of Barada precinct. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, April 27, 1835. He is a son of Francis and Mary Peters, natives of Germany, where they grew up, married and made their home until 1839, when they brought their family to America, locating in St. Louis, Missouri, where their son, Fulton, was reared and attended school, and there he learned the trade of ship carpenter. He helped to build the ferry "Carondelet," which was subsequently transformed into a gunboat for use in the Union navy during the Civil War, being the first unit that formed the famous "Mosquito Fleet." Fulton Peters continued to follow his trade in St. Louis until 1867, but he came to Richardson county, Nebraska, in 1856, to locate land, moving on to the place he had entered in 1858. After a year's hard work improving the land he returned to St. Louis and did not return to his land here to make his permanent home until 1870. During the Civil War he worked in the government navy yards, under an oath of allegiance and received five dollars per day for his work. He has lived on his farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Barada precinct for a period of forty-seven years and has carried on general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Peters was married in 1856 to Euphrasia Barada, a daughter of Anton Barada, a half-breed Indian, after whom Barada precinct was named. Mrs. Peters was born in 1837 in St. Louis, and her death occurred in 1888. Her father, Anton Barada, was taken from the Omaha Indians when a boy and brought to St. Louis, where he was reared and where he married a French woman. In 1854 he was notified that he was entitled to a tract of land in the "Half-breed Reservation" and he came to Barada precinct, Richardson county, developed his land and here spent the rest of his life, dying in 1887. He was one of the best known of the early pioneers here.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Peters: Frank lives in the Omaha Reservation at Walthill, Nebraska; Amil, Walter, Mrs. Mary Saylor and Mrs. Josephine Mitchell, all live in the Omaha Reservation; Jacob is farming south of Barada, Richardson county; Mrs. Margaret Rockwell is the widow of Edward Rockwell and makes her home in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Politically, Mr. Peters is a Democrat and has filled minor township offices. He is a member of the Catholic church.

Mr. Peters crossed the plains in 1853, from Kansas City to Ft. Laramie, Wyoming; in fact, he made three trips in all across the great western plains—one to Salt Lake City, Utah, and one to the Solomon river, during the gold excitement period. He started to the Solomon river district in 1864, with a train of one hundred and five wagons, taking the short cut-off by way of Pacific Springs on the Platte river and Green river in the mountains. He built a boat which he used in crossing that stream. Some members of the party became dissatisfied and went to Oregon, but when only ten miles away the deserters were attacked by the Indians, or Mormons, and many of the party were killed, the survivors returning to the original wagon train. A new party was sent out which chased the marauders into the fastnesses of the mountains. But the camp was attacked the second night following and the cattle were stampeded. Mr. Peters, with twenty-five men followed the stock, overtook them and turned them back. The train was again attacked on Green Creek mountain or Snake river, at a time when the party was divided, part of them having been sent to rescue another party of whites that had previously been attacked by the Indians. Mr. Peters and his band drove off the savages and he then took charge of the immigrants and their supplies, helping them to reach the settlement, the train finally reaching Walla Walla, Washington. At Baker City, Oregon, Mr. Peters engaged in mining for some time, finally returning to Nebraska. In 1873 he made a trip to the Black Hills, in company with Anton Barada, F. Goolsby and William Ankrom. They made the overland trip to the Black Hills and started mining there, but on account of the hostile Indians of that country they were compelled to give up their prospects and return home, escaping the savages by strategy. They built a big camp-fire to deceive the Indians and stole quietly away during the night, arriving at Buffalo Gap the following morning, their trip from there on home being uneventful. In 1883 Mr. Peters went to Blackbird, Nebraska, to locate on land which the Barada family was entitled to, but failed to get possession,



after one year's efforts, even carrying his case to Congress. Some members of the family proved up on their rights to portions of this land; but others really entitled to it, have failed.

Mr. Peters worked on the Ohio & Missouri Pacific railroad, when it was being built, contracting for a portion of the work. He was nearby when the memorable Gasconade disaster occurred. He worked on the construction of the Gasconade-bridge of the Missouri-Pacific railroad in 1855.

Mr. Peters is a well-preserved man for his age and is one of the well-known and honored citizens of Richardson county, in which he has lived to see and take part in many great changes since he first traversed its wild prairies over sixty years ago.

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### ANTHONY J. HANIKA.

In a great general farming locality like Richardson county, immense numbers of cattle, hogs and other live stock are raised annually, which gives rise to an extensive business in the buying and shipping of stock to the markets. Among those who follow this line of endeavor here is Anthony J. Hanika, of the village of Shubert.

Mr. Hanika was born in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, June 28, 1857. He is a son of Herman J. and Catherine (Lash) Hanika, both natives of Austria, in which country they grew to maturity, but did not marry until they came to America, which was in the year 1856. Herman J. Hanika was the son of wealthy parents, and it was not the custom for the better classes to marry among the poorer classes, but his romance with Catherine Lash began when they were young and in order that he might marry her, a poor girl, they immigrated to the New World. They established their home in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin. Mr. Hanika took up the trade of blacksmith at Fond du Lac when there were but three houses in what is now an important city. A year and a half later he went into the timber and bought forty acres, which land was covered with hardwood maple and other valuable timber. He cleared the land and built a log cabin, working hard and undergoing the usual hardships and privations incident to pioneering in the rigid northern climate in that state. He soon had crops growing and continued farming there until the fall of 1866, when he sold out and moved to Nebraska, buying two hundred acres about three miles from Arago, one hundred and sixty acres of prairie and forty acres

of timber; it had been partly improved. He brought four thousand dollars with him, which would have been regarded as a fortune to most early settlers. He knew very little about farming and stock raising. He began developing his new farm, but droughts and grasshoppers broke him up and he lost his farm and surplus money. At that time he had ten children. But he was a man of courage, and, nothing daunted, he made a new start, going to work at his trade. He finally was able to purchase two hundred acres in Barada precinct which he still owns and where he was very successful as a general farmer. His children were named as follows: Theresa is the wife of John H. Kelly, of Barada precinct; Mary is the wife of A. M. Palmer, of Barada precinct; Adolph died in Thurston county, Nebraska; Elizabeth died in Barada precinct; Herman, Jr., lives in Barada precinct; Frank lives in Hartington, Cedar county, this state; Catherine died in infancy; Mrs. Lydia Shaw lives in Lebanon, South Dakota; John lives on the home place; Margaret is the wife of Edward Frederick, of Falls City, and Anthony J., of this sketch. The father of the above named children was born on July 11, 1829, and is therefore at this writing eighty-eight years old. His wife was born on August 20, 1836, and died on January 24, 1905.

Anthony J. Hanika was nine years old when his parents brought him from Wisconsin to Richardson county, Nebraska. He remembers well the hardships of the family at the time of his father's failure. Although but a boy he was working out by the month and turning over his earnings to his father to help in the support of the family, while he was getting a new start on rented land. The subject of this sketch had little opportunity to obtain an education. When twenty-one years of age he began life for himself; by hiring out as a farm hand he saved enough of his wages to buy a wagon and team, then rented his employer's farm. He continued farming on rented land until 1891. In 1898 he bought eighty acres of unimproved land. He lived for some time on his father-in-law's place and farmed his own land until he could get it properly improved, build a house and otherwise get it in shape to live on. After moving to it he continued to reside there until in August, 1910, when he moved to a beautiful home in Shubert. He has succeeded as a general farmer and stock raiser through his persistent efforts and good management and is now owner of a valuable and well-improved farm of four hundred acres in Barada precinct, also three hundred and twenty acres in Texas, his wife owning equal parts of the land. Mr. Hanika has bought and shipped live stock for many years, making his headquarters in Shubert and he has been very successful in this field of endeavor. He ships about one hundred and fifty carloads of stock to the



markets each year. He is an exceptionally good judge of all kinds of live stock and is one of the best known stockmen in the county.

On February 14, 1884, Anthony J. Hanika was married to Emma Catherine Lundy, born on October 6, 1865, in Barada precinct, Richardson county. She is a daughter of Ebenezer Lundy, a pioneer settler in this locality, mention of whom is made in the sketch of J. W. Lundy, which appears elsewhere in this work. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hanika: Lula, the wife of Thomas Davis, of West Muddy precinct, and they have two daughters, Jessie May and Ruth Louise; Laurence, the next child, died in 1911, at the age of twenty-five years; Olive is the wife of C. S. Weddle, of Barada precinct; August, on the home farm, married Marvel Lewis, and they have one child, Austin J., and Jessie, living at home, is now attending high school.

Politically, Mr. Hanika is a Republican. He belongs to St. Anne's Catholic church at Barada.

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### THOMAS F. WUSTER.

Thomas F. Wuster, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers in the precinct of Grant, this county, was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, January 24, 1878, son of Christ and Martha (Marquard) Wuster, who came to this state in June, 1879, and became pioneers in Porter precinct, this county. Further and fitting reference to the Wuster family in this county is made elsewhere in this volume.

Reared on the home farm in Porter precinct, he having been but two years of age when his parents settled there, Thomas F. Wuster received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood. He began working out at the early age of eleven years and worked constantly from the time he was fourteen years of age. In the spring of 1900 he began farming for himself. For one year he rented the Strunk farm and then in 1901 he bought his present place of a quarter section in the precinct of Grant and there established his home and has ever since resided there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. His house, built in 1908, is one of the best in that neighborhood and the general farm buildings are in keeping with the same, the place being looked upon as one of the best-improved farms in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming Mr. Wuster gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, with particular reference to sheep

and hogs. He has a flock of more than one hundred and twenty head of sheep and in 1916 fed more than four hundred head of sheep for the market.

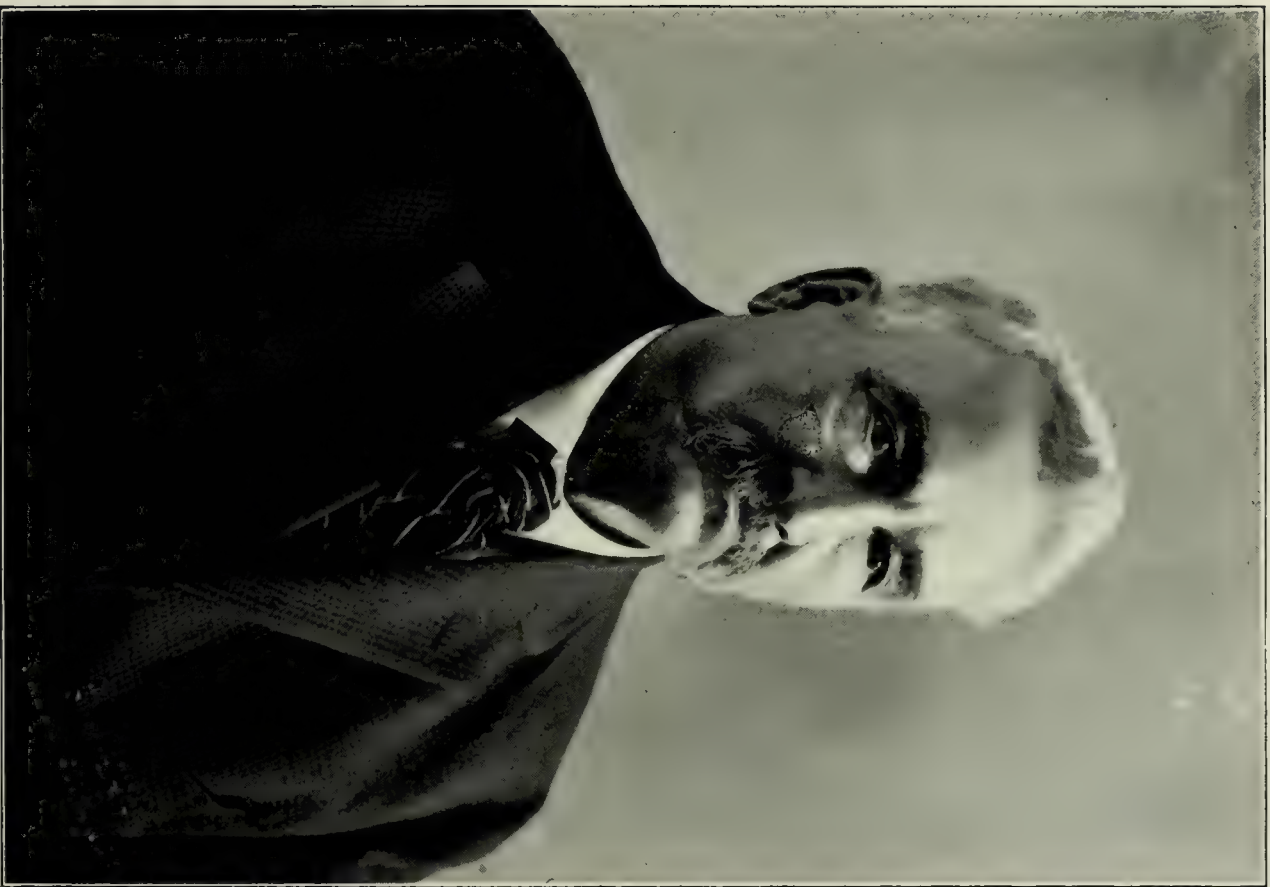
On March 7, 1901, Thomas F. Wuster was united in marriage to Margaret Heim, who was born on a pioneer farm in the precinct of Grant, this county, May 31, 1880, daughter of Jacob G. and Regina (Gross) Heim, prominent and influential pioneers of this county and further and extended reference to whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union seven children have been born, namely: Minerva, born on December 28, 1901; Ruth, November 6, 1903; Frederick, July 3, 1905; Dorothy, December 31, 1906; Joseph, September 11, 1909; Milton, July 18, 1912, and Dwight, April 23, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Wuster are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and take a warm interest in church affairs, as well as in the general good works of the community in which they live, helpful in many ways in promoting such agencies as are designed to advance the common welfare thereabout. Mr. Wuster is independent in his political views, preferring to keep himself free to vote for the most competent candidate for public office without regard to party affiliations. He not only is a progressive and wide-awake farmer, but a public spirited citizen and tries to do his part in advancing the interests of the community of which he has been a resident since the days of his early childhood.

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### JOHN H. HOLLAND.

John H. Holland, a veteran of the Civil War and one of the real old-timers of Richardson county, a substantial farmer and landowner of this county, now living retired at Stella, where he has made his home since 1908, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of this state since the days of his young manhood, having come out here almost immediately after completing his service as a soldier of the Union at the close of the Civil War. He was born on a farm in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, December 27, 1844, son of Thomas and Mary (Hamilton) Holland, natives of England, who were married in their native country and then come to the United States, settling in Illinois, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Thomas Holland was born in 1804 and died on October 8, 1892, at the great age of eighty-eight years. His wife had long preceded him to the grave, her death having occurred in 1850. They were the parents of ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth,





MR. AND MRS. JOHN H. HOLLAND.





the others being as follow: Ann, who is now living at Elizabeth, Illinois, widow of James Ransom; Mrs. Elizabeth Cook, also of Illinois; Ralph, of Essex, Iowa; Thomas, deceased, who served in an Illinois regiment in the Civil War; Edwin, of Elizabeth, Illinois; Mary, wife of J. B. Williams, of Emmetsburg, Iowa; George, of Pawnee Rock, Kansas; William, of Elizabeth, Illinois, and Enoch, deceased, who was the first of the family to pass away.

Reared on the home farm in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, John H. Holland received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood was an active factor in the labors of improving and developing the home place, and was living there when the Civil War broke out. In February, 1865, he then being but little past twenty years of age, he enlisted at Elizabeth, Illinois, for service in the Union army and went to the front as a member of Company A, Fifteenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and with that command joined Sherman's army in its triumphant march up from Savannah and through the Carolinas and Virginia to Washington, but necessarily saw little active service, as the war came to an end in the following April. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Holland returned to his home in Illinois and in the spring of 1866 came West and for a time was engaged in freighting between Council Bluffs and Red Oak, Iowa, later coming on over to Omaha, riding the old stage coach thence from the Des Moines river. At that time, as Mr. Holland recalls, there were many of the old-timers out this way who were becoming pessimistic enough to declare that land out this way would never amount to anything and that efforts here were being wasted, but he had confidence in the outcome and determined to become a fixture in the new country. For several years after locating at Omaha Mr. Holland was employed in the timber, cutting ties and posts for the railroad, and also farmed for a year in that vicinity; but in 1873 came down into Richardson county and bought a tract of school land in section 36 of the precinct of Porter, paying for the same twelve dollars an acre, and settled down to improve and develop the same, setting out trees and an orchard, and by the time of his marriage in 1880 had a very comfortable home there. After having improved that place in admirable shape Mr. Holland went over into western Kansas, where he homesteaded a tract of land and there made his home for fourteen years, at the end of which time he returned to his quarter section in this county and there continued to reside until 1908, when he retired from the farm and moved to Stella, building there a modern house, one of the large residences

of that town, and there he and his wife have since made their home, very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. Mr. Holland is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, for some time having served as a member of the school board.

On February 8, 1880, some years after coming to Richardson county, John H. Holland was united in marriage to Mary F. Crook, who was born on a pioneer farm in the neighborhood of Salem, this county, April 3, 1863, daughter of John and Martha J. (Thomas) Crook, early settlers of that community, and to this union have been born four children, namely: Oscar L., a salesman, now living at St. Louis; John T., district salesman for the Republic Rubber Company, of Little Rock, Arkansas; Myrtle, wife of William M. Veal, who is operating the old Holland home farm, and Florence, at home, who was graduated from the Stella schools, later studied music and is now teaching music at Stella. The Hollands are members of the Evangelical church and take a proper interest in the work of the church, as well as in the general good works of the community.

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#### CHARLES H. MARTIN.

One of the most progressive farmers of Barada precinct, Richardson county is Charles H. Martin, who was born May 14, 1863, in Fremont county, Iowa. He is a son of John I. and Rachel (Reeves) Martin, both natives of Illinois, where they spent their earlier years, but came to Iowa in pioneer times. John I. Martin, who was born on June 12, 1839, is a son of Isaac Martin, who settled at Tarkio, Missouri, about 1844, later moving to Fremont county, Iowa, thence to Richardson county, Nebraska, in 1866, settling near what is now the Falls school house. Isaac Martin bought a farm one mile north of Falls City, of Jesse Crook, for which he paid only five dollars per acre. John I. Martin paid only three dollars and twenty-five cents per acre for his land, which he improved and there reared his children, and he made his home in Richardson county many years, but finally moved back to Iowa. He spends his winters in California, and the rest of the time with his sons in Richardson county. The wife of John I. Martin was born on December 11, 1840, and died on December 15, 1908. To these parents the following children were born: Sarah Alice, born in Iowa, May 16, 1861, died August 9, 1863; Charles Herny, of this sketch; Elza, born June 11, 1866, lives at Hotchkiss, Colorado; Mary Florence, October 16, 1867, died



at Howe, Idaho, April 5, 1914; Della Maria, April 21, 1870, died August 18, 1871; Joseph Wesley, October 12, 1872, lives at Paona, Colorado; Susan Nellie, June 24, 1872, died August 10, 1879; John Ambrose, May 12, 1877 is the present postmaster at Barada, Nebraska; Mrs. Clara Lulu Stephens, January 25, 1879, lives in San Diego, California, and Mrs. Ella Sayre, wife of Harvey Sayre, was born on October 28, 1881, and lives at Hotchkiss, Colorado.

Charles H. Martin spent his boyhood in Richardson county and he received a common-school education here and in Fremont county, Iowa. He first attended school in his grandfather's home, taught by his aunt, Mary Martin, who later married Isaac Ryan. He also attended the old Maddox school. He remained with his parents on the farm until he was twenty-two years old, in 1885, when he began farming on his grandmother's place, now owned by William Nutter. After living there two years he moved to a farm in Barada precinct, where he spent three years, then moved to Colorado, in 1890, where he engaged in farming until 1896, having pre-empted forty acres, also bought forty acres. He carried on farming there by irrigation and prospered and lived there until 1897. It was a new country and he endured many hardships. It was thirty-five miles to the nearest railroad, and prices for all household supplies were very high. On account of his wife's health he sold out and returned to Nebraska and secured the farm he now owns, consisting of eighty acres in Barada precinct, on which land he has erected an attractive new home and has made other important improvements. It is well located one mile north of the village of Barada. He also owns a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Barada precinct.

Mr. Martin was married on March 4, 1886, to Addah Dakota Butler, who was born on May 24, 1866, in Vermilion county, Illinois. She is a daughter of Ephraim Porter and Minerva J. Butler, who are mentioned in the sketch of W. F. Butler, appearing elsewhere in this volume.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Martin: Alta Ruth, born on January 11, 1887, is the wife of Philip Markt, of Oregon, Missouri, and they have four children, Morris Henry, Bernice, Merrill and Adeline; Grace Elfie, October 14, 1889, is the wife of Roy Dunn of Falls City, Nebraska, and they have four children, Fern, Dale, Delpha May and Melvin Henry, December 5, 1896, is working with his father on the home farm.

Politically, Mr. Martin is a Republican. He served as precinct committeeman of Barada precinct for several years. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and belongs to the Evangelical church.

## ROLAND M. HILL.

Though for some years past a resident of Greeley county, Roland M. Hill, a substantial farmer and landowner of that county, has never lost interest in the affairs of Richardson county, in which county he was reared, back in pioneer days, and it is but fitting that there should be included in this volume of history and biography relating to Richardson county, some mention of the part he formerly took in the affairs of this county, together with a biographical sketch.

Roland M. Hill is a native of the Dominion of Canada, born in the province of Ontario, September 28, 1858, son of E. C. and Arcosh (Kallustine) Hill, who were the parents of twelve children, three of whom were born on September 28. When Roland M. Hill was seven years of age his parents came from Ontario to Nebraska and settled on a pioneer tract in the precinct of Grant, in Richardson county, where they established their home, influential and useful pioneers of that part of the county, further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume in a biographical sketch relating to E. C. Hill, Jr., who is still living in this county. On that pioneer farm Roland M. Hill grew to manhood, receiving his elementary schooling in such schools as the district was able to provide in those days, and in 1881, some little time after he had attained his majority, he entered the State Normal School at Peru and was in attendance at that institution for two years. He then returned to the home farm and was engaged in farming there until 1888, in which year, he meanwhile having learned the art of railroad telegraphing, he was appointed night operator at the station at Humboldt and was there thus engaged for eighteen months, at the end of which time he was transferred to the office at Saltillo, where he remained as operator from the spring of 1891 to the spring of 1894. Mr. Hill then left the key and for a year thereafter was again engaged in farming, but in August, 1896, he resumed his old employment as a railroad telegraph operator and was assigned to duty in the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy station at Violet. Not long afterward he again was sent to the station at Saltillo and there he remained until late in the fall of 1897, when he was transferred to the Lincoln division and was thereafter for four years stationed at Horace. During the time he was looking after the railroad's interests at Horace he also was engaged in buying grain for the Central Granary Company. In 1901 Mr. Hill was transferred to the station at Wolbach, but fifteen days later was given charge of the station at Brayton, in Greeley county, where



he remained until in November, 1907, when he resigned his position with the railroad company and went to McCook, in the neighborhood of which place he was for four years thereafter engaged in farming a tract of land his father owned there. In the meantime he had bought a ranch of his own in Greeley county and in time located on the same and has since made that his place of residence, having developed a fine bit of farming property there. In addition to the quarter section he owns in Greeley county Mr. Hill is the owner of a quarter of a section in Grant precinct, this county, a part of the Hill estate, and one hundred and eighty acres in the neighborhood of McCook, a part of his father's estate there, also one hundred acres in Canada, part of his father's estate, and is doing well in his general farming and stock-raising operations.

On December 24, 1895, Roland M. Hill was united in marriage to Mrs. Nettie Decamp, of Vesta, this state, a widow, and to this union eight children have been born, Vera, Roland M., Annis, Ruth, Warren, Lyle, Grace and Leah. Mr. Hill is a Republican. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

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### WILLIAM L. STEPHENS.

William L. Stephens, farmer, of Barada precinct, Richardson county, was born on December 17, 1861, in Nemaha county, Nebraska, near the line between that county and Richardson county and only two miles from his present home. He is a son of John L. and Elizabeth (Rutledge) Stephens. The father was born in 1833 and died in 1899. He was a native of Maryland, and was a son of Jeremiah Stephens, who was of Scotch descent. Elizabeth Rutledge was born in 1838 and died in 1892. She was a daughter of William Rutledge. In 1857 John L. Stephens made the long journey by rail and steamboat from Maryland to northwestern Missouri, locating near Sonora. In the spring of 1858 he came to Nemaha county, Nebraska, locating on a farm in the southeastern part of that county. In 1863 he settled in section 3, Barada precinct, Richardson county. He was a typical pioneer, and lived in pioneer fashion. During the old freighting days he owned teams and a complete outfit for hauling and frequently sent them across the great plains. He bought land in the "Half-Breed Reservation," which he improved and engaged in general farming and stock raising there a number of years. His family consisted of four children,

namely: Anna, who was the wife of George Marsh, is now deceased; George, who died in infancy; William L., of this sketch, and Ella, who married Will Casey, is deceased. George Marsh, mentioned above, who served as county clerk two terms and as county treasurer two terms of Richardson county, also served two terms as secretary of state of Nebraska. He now makes his home in Lincoln, this state. He has long been prominent in public affairs.

William L. Stephens grew up on the home farm in Nemaha county and he attended the early-day schools. He has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. He owns one hundred and eighty acres in Beddo Creek valley, where he located in pioneer days. In fact, he has made his home in the same place for a period of fifty-four years. Years ago his father built a substantial brick house, which is now surrounded by evergreens. His home is modern in its appointments and the surroundings are attractive. He is only forty-five minutes from Falls City, and, all in all, has no desire to quit the farm and spend his declining years in town, as so many farmers are doing nowadays. His father erected the first brick house here in 1873, and in 1914 the subject of this sketch built an addition, remodeled and modernized the entire home. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser.

Mr. Stephens was married on March 28, 1900, to Lena Georges, who was born on July 12, 1866, on a farm adjoining that on which Mr. Stephens was reared. She is a daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth (Baker) Georges, both of French extraction. They were pioneers of Richardson county. The father was born in France, where he resided until 1851, when he came to America, locating first in Buffalo, New York. In 1854 he came to Richardson county, Nebraska, and established the future home of the family, becoming one of the successful pioneer farmers here. He was born on May 20, 1819, and died October 23, 1901. His wife was also born in France and she crossed the Atlantic with friends, the trip requiring fifty-six days. After living in New York for three years she came West. Mr. and Mrs. Georges were married in 1857. They bought land in the Indian reservation in Richardson county and there developed a good farm on which they spent the rest of their lives.

Politically, Mr. Stephens is a Republican. He and Mrs. Stephens belong to the Brethren church. He is well and favorably known over the county, which he has lived to see develop from a wild prairie country to one of the best improved farming localities in the state.



## PAUL HESSLER.

Perhaps the oldest and certainly one of the best-known harness dealers in southeastern Nebraska is Paul Hessler of Falls City, Richardson county, who was born in Buffalo, New York, November 7, 1855. He is a son of Gottlieb T. and Louisa Hessler, both natives of Austria, where they grew up and where the father learned the cabinet-maker's trade which he followed for some time in the city of Vienna. He immigrated to America in 1853, and followed his trade in Buffalo, New York. He removed to Richardson county, Nebraska, April 15, 1870, locating in Arago precinct on a farm three and one-half miles west of old Arago. Here he developed a good farm and continued in agricultural pursuits for the rest of his life, dying on October 29, 1889. His family consisted of six children, five of whom came to Nebraska; they were named as follows: Charles, now living in Seattle, Washington; Paul of this sketch; Mrs. Emily Evans of Norton, Kansas; Edward is engaged in truck farming near Kansas City, Missouri; George lives at Cashion, Kingfisher county, Oklahoma, and Mrs. Carrie Stackhouse, in Tonawanda, New York.

Paul Hessler spent his boyhood in Buffalo, New York, where he attended the public schools and there learned the harness-maker's trade, beginning his apprenticeship in July, 1869. He came to Nebraska in 1870, but returned to Buffalo in the fall of 1873, where he spent three years, returning to Nebraska in July, 1876. After working at his trade in Falls City for three months he turned his attention to farming, which occupation he followed four years; then went to St. Joseph, Missouri, where he followed his trade four years, after which he again took up farming for another four years, then located in Falls City and has since devoted his attention to the harness business. His present business was first established in the year 1886 by Joe Bateman. He was joined on January 1, 1888, by Mr. Hessler, of this sketch, who bought a partnership. On May 20, 1889, Mr. Hessler bought his partner's interest and has since conducted the business alone, making a great success. By industry and good management he has increased the business from five thousand dollars a year to thirteen thousand dollars a year. He is not only a highly skilled workman, but is a man of sound business judgment and executive ability. His customers are to be found all over the southeastern part of the state. He has occupied the same quarters at 1711 Stone street since June 29, 1890. He employs three efficient harness-makers. His stock of goods ranges in value from five thousand dollars to eight thousand dollars. That

he has dealt with his scores of customers in an honest and courteous manner is indicated by the fact that many of his best customers have been with him since the early years of his business career in Falls City.

Mr. Hessler was married on April 19, 1886, to Anna Schimpf, who was born in Buffalo, New York, in September, 1855. She is a daughter of Emil Schimpf and wife, both natives of Germany. To Mr. and Mrs. Hessler one child has been born, Gertrude, who was reared and educated in Falls City and is still at home with her parents, the family residence at Main and McLean streets being an attractive one and known for its genuine old time hospitality.

Politically, Mr. Hessler is a Republican. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Rebekahs, Encampment and other subordinate lodges. He has always done his share in boosting his home city and is regarded by all as one of its best citizens.

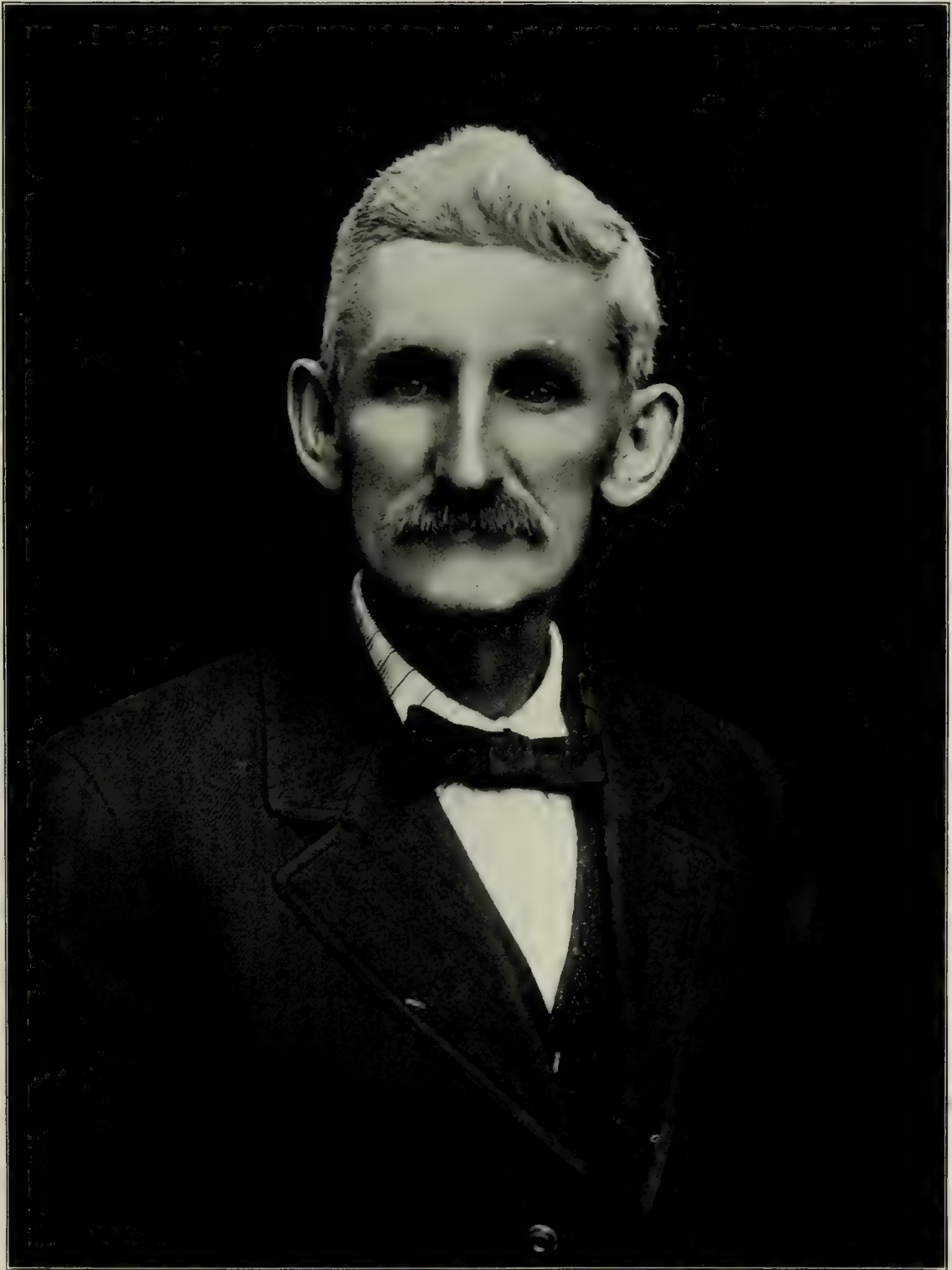
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### HENRY SIEMERING.

Henry Siemering, former member of the board of county supervisors of Richardson county and a well-known and substantial retired farmer, owner of a fine farm of a quarter of a section of excellent land in the precinct of East Barada, now living in Barada village, where he and his family are very comfortably situated, is a native of the neighboring state of Missouri, but has been a resident of this county since the days of his early childhood, having come over here with his parents in 1866, and has thus been a witness to the development of this region since territorial days. He was born in Pike county, Missouri, the scene of John Hay's "Pike County Ballads," and the home of Jim Bludso and other bold and adventurous spirits of an earlier day, December 26, 1863, son of Henry and Lizzie (Wyland) Siemering, the former a Hanoverian and the latter a native of the state of Illinois, who came over into the then Territory of Nebraska in 1866 and settled in Richardson county, where both spent their last days, the latter dying in 1888 and the former surviving until July 19, 1912. After the death of his first wife the pioneer Henry Siemering married again and his widow is still living in this county, now a resident of the village of Barada.

The senior Henry Siemering was born in Hanover, Germany, on January 8, 1833, and was twenty years of age when he left his native land and came to this country, landing at the port of New Orleans after a voyage





HENRY SIEMERING.





of ninety-three days. Upon his arrival there he found employment in that city, but in 1854 came up the river and located at St. Louis, where he learned the cooper's trade, later moving up into Pike county, Missouri, where he engaged in the cooperage business, making flour barrels, and where he remained until in May, 1866, when he came over into the then Territory of Nebraska with his family and bought a farm of eighty acres in the Barada half-breed strip, in this county, and there established his home, building a log house and settling down to improve and develop the tract. It was a timber tract on which he settled and it was no small task to clear the same, but he soon had a clearing and it was not long until he was well established on his pioneer farm. As he prospered in his operations Henry Siemering added to his holdings until he became the owner of five hundred acres of valuable land in that precinct. As one of the pioneer settlers of that part of the county he helped organize the school district and in other ways was helpful in the development of the early interests of the county. He was a member of the Lutheran church and did his part in the organization of a church in the neighborhood of his home. The senior Henry Siemering was twice married, his first wife, Lizzie Wyland, who was born at Peoria, Illinois, January 2, 1842, dying in 1888. He married, secondly, Emma Kuker, who is still living, a resident of the village of Barada, and that union was without issue. By his first marriage he was the father of twelve children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: John, died in infancy; William, of Stillwater, Oklahoma; Josephine, now deceased, who was the wife of W. H. Lemon; Mary, who was the wife of J. Dodson and who died in Montana; Rosa, deceased; Louisa, deceased; Emma, deceased; Fred W., a farmer, of Barada precinct; Charles, deceased; Louis, of Mound City, Missouri, and Mrs. Sophia Lietzke, of Barada precinct.

As noted above, the junior Henry Siemering was but three years of age when his parents came over into Nebraska and settled in this county and he grew to manhood on the pioneer farm in Barada, receiving his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood. From the days of his boyhood he was a valued assistant in the labors of developing and improving the home place and he remained at home until his marriage in 1887, he then being twenty-three years of age, when he rented a farm and began farming on his own account. In 1897 he bought a quarter of a section of unimproved land in section 30 of East Barada precinct, built a house and barn on the same and made other improvements and there continued to make his home, successfully engaged in general farming, until his retirement from the active labors

of the farm in 1916 and removal to the village of Barada, where he has a comfortable home and sixteen lots. Mr. Siemering is a Democrat and in 1895 and 1896 was elected assessor of his precinct. In 1899 he again was elected assessor and in 1907 was elected a member of the board of county supervisors from his district and was re-elected to that office at the next election, thus holding office on the supervisors board for four years.

On March 24, 1887, Henry Siemering was united in marriage to Minnie Kuker, who was born in the precinct of East Barada, this county, April 3, 1868, a daughter of Louis and Emma (Buchmann) Kuker, natives of Germany and pioneers of this county, and to this union eight children have been born, namely: Mrs. Emma Gerdes, of the precinct of Barada; Charles H., who is farming the home place; Mrs. Lulu Sailors, of the precinct of East Barada; Amanda and Ella, deceased, and Edwin W., Lizzie and Arthur J., at home. The Siemerings are members of the Lutheran church and have ever taken an interested part in church work, as well as in other local good works and in the general social activities of their home community.

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#### SAMUEL H. BAYNE.

It is always a badge of honor to have served our great country during the crisis of the early sixties, in preserving the Union, and we, of this generation, should show every mark of respect such a veteran as Samuel H. Bayne, now living in retirement in Falls City, Richardson county. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 3, 1836. He is a son of Robert Bayne, whose birth occurred in the city of Philadelphia in 1800, of German descent, his ancestors having come to America in Colonial times; the original spelling of the name was Behn. The death of Robert Bayne occurred at the age of sixty-two years; he was a shoemaker by trade. He moved from the Quaker City, in 1840, to Newark, Delaware, where his death occurred in 1862, his death being due to fever and exposure while on a visit to an army camp in Virginia during the Civil War. His son, Nathaniel, was a soldier in the Federal ranks and the father had gone there to aid him, the son having been taken prisoner and escaped. The grandmother of the subject of this sketch lived to be ninety-eight years old. His mother, who was known in her maidenhood as Anne Duncan, was born in Philadelphia in 1804 and died in 1874 in Wilmington, Delaware. She was a daughter of William Duncan, who was of Scotch descent, and who was the keeper of



the Sandy Hook lighthouse in an early day. To Robert and Anne (Duncan) Bayne nine children were born, eight sons and one daughter, named as follow: Robert, who was an officer in the Fortieth New York Regiment, Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil War, is deceased; James, deceased; Mary A., deceased; Samuel died in infancy; Samuel H., subject of this sketch; John died when young; Nathaniel, who was a soldier in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Volunteer Infantry (the Corn Exchange Regiment), is deceased; Joseph died when young, and William, who died when twenty-six years old.

Samuel H. Bayne spent his boyhood in his native city and there attended the public schools. When eighteen years old he left home and went to Galena, Illinois, where he clerked for his brother, James, in a grocery store. Later, James Bayne moved to Warren, Jo Daviess county, Illinois, accompanied by the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Bayne of this review was married in 1858, to Mary A. Vandervort, who was born February 8, 1841, in Erie, Pennsylvania. She was a daughter of John and Charlotte Vandervort, of German descent, and came to Illinois in 1854. After his marriage Mr. Bayne located in Warren county, Illinois. On July 6, 1862, he enlisted in Company H, Ninety-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was sent with his regiment into Kentucky and while there was taken sick and on that account was honorably discharged at Franklin, Tennessee, on May 26, 1863. He was with the Army of the Cumberland. He returned home after his experience as a soldier and continued to reside in Warren, Illinois, until the spring of 1867, when he moved to Salem, Nebraska, and opened a general merchandise store, engaging in business there successfully for a period of thirty years, building up a large and lucrative trade with that town and surrounding country as a result of his sound judgment, perseverance and honest dealings. He was one of the pioneer merchants at Salem. Upon leaving there in 1897 he moved to Falls City, Richardson county, and retired from the active duties of life. For a period of twenty years he was vice-president of the Bank of Salem.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bayne one child was born, Mrs. Emma Moore, who lives in Falls City, and has two children living, Mrs. G. W. Daggett, of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Ernest J. Moore, of Little Rock, Arkansas. The latter is a painter and decorator. Mr. Daggett is a motorman on the traction line at Lincoln, but formerly he was agent for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company at Dawson, Nebraska, which position he held for a number of years. ~~Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Daggett,~~ namely: Winnie Gene, Christine, and an infant.

Politically, Mr. Bayne is a Republican. He has been a Mason for a period of forty-four years, and has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for a period of forty years. He holds membership with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is a member of Porter Post, No. 48, Grand Army of the Republic, at Salem. He has always been regarded as a good citizen in every respect and enjoys the friendship of a very wide circle of acquaintances both at Salem and Falls City.

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### CHARLES H. SCHOCK.

A well-known and highly honored citizen of a past generation in Falls City, Richardson county, was the late Charles H. Schock, a man who led an upright and honorable life and was rated at all times as a good citizen, in all that the term implies. He was born near Bellevue, Ohio, July 19, 1848. He was a son of William and Sarah (Heater) Schock, both natives of Ohio, but of Pennsylvania-German stock. Their family consisted of eight children, named as follow: George W., of Falls City, Nebraska; Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart, of Vermillion, Kansas; Mrs. Adeline Korner, of Falls City, Nebraska; Charles H., of this sketch; Mrs. Amanda Stetler, of Long Beach, California; William A. is engaged in farming in Richardson county; Mrs. George W. Holland lives in Falls City, Nebraska, and Lincoln, who died when sixteen years old.

The Schock family came to Nebraska in 1868 and settled on a farm east of Falls City. There the father prospered, growing wealthy through close application and good management. Charles H. Schock was twenty years of age when the family moved to Richardson county. After working on the home place for five years he began farming for himself, investing in land four and one-half miles southwest of Falls City, owning one hundred and sixty acres of very productive land, which he brought up to a high state of improvement, living there for a period of eleven years. He then moved to Falls City in 1892. He also owned a good farm of one hundred acres near Salem. He continued to reside in Falls City until his death, which occurred on July 5, 1902. He had been very successful as a general farmer.

Politically Mr. Schock was a Republican and was active in party affairs. He attended the Methodist church. Fraternally, he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Royal Highlanders.

Mr. Schock was married on April 12, 1881, to Katie Melhorn, who



was born April 30, 1857, in Indiana. She is a daughter of Andrew and Mary (Streasner) Melhorn, both natives of Germany, where they spent their earlier years, finally emigrating to America. After living in Indiana for some time they came to Nebraska in 1865, locating in Arago precinct, living on a farm many years near the village of Barada. Their family consisted of six children, namely: Sarah, the wife of George A. Schock, of Falls City, Nebraska; Katie, widow of Charles H. Schock of this memoir; John died when eight years of age; George and Herman were both killed by lightning at the same time; Martin lives in San Diego, California.

Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Schock, namely: Mattie, wife of Mark Tefft, a merchant of Falls City, Nebraska, and they have one child, Kathleen, whose birth occurred on January 12, 1914; Stella is the wife of Glenn McMillan, a druggist of Falls City. Mrs. Tefft is a member of the social circle of the Methodist Episcopal church and the Woman's Club of Falls City.

Mrs. Katie Schock built a beautiful home on Stone street, Falls City, in 1911, where she still resides. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### ELLIS O. LEWIS.

A man of sound business judgment and recognized integrity is Ellis O. Lewis, manager of the Peerless Stock Powder Company of Falls City, Nebraska. He was born on March 2, 1861, in McHenry county, Illinois. He is the son of John Lewis and his wife, Rebecca Fitz Randolph Lewis, the latter of whom is a direct descendant of Robert Fitz Randolph, who served as a private minute-man in the Middlesex New Jersey militia during the Revolutionary War. Robert Fitz Randolph also served for a time in a Pennsylvania regiment commanded by Col. William Cook and was present at the battle of Germantown.

John Lewis and his wife were both born near Meadville, Pennsylvania, and were married in Illinois in 1858. In 1863 the family moved from Illinois to Newton, Iowa, and in 1869 moved to Richardson county, Nebraska, and in October of that year settled in Ohio township, six miles northwest of Falls City. He was among the early pioneers and, by hard work and perseverance he developed a farm from the wilderness and after many hardships, established a comfortable home for his family. Ellis O. Lewis thus grew to manhood amid primitive conditions, sharing the burdens of life on

the Western frontier. He found plenty of hard work to do in helping to establish the family home in the new country. He remembers helping to raise corn and shelling it, then hauling it to St. Stephens, where he sold it for thirteen cents per bushel. He also tells of building "breaks" to catch the grasshoppers during the years of that plague and fattening pigs on the insects. He helped to fatten hogs which his father sold for three and one-half cents per pound.

Mr. Lewis, of this sketch, studied awhile under D. D. Houtz, one of the first teachers in Richardson county, then attended the high school at Falls City, taking a three years' course, graduating in 1880, being thus a member of the first graduating class there. In the fall of that year he entered Nebraska State University, taking the course in civil engineering and graduating in 1884. He became a member of the first fraternity that graduated from that institution—the Phi Delta Theta.

Thus exceptionally well equipped for life's duties in those early days in this section of the West, Mr. Lewis began teaching, assuming the duties of principal of the Verdon schools, also taught at Rulo, Richardson county, and at Reserve, Kansas, giving eminent satisfaction as an educator. He was elected clerk of Richardson county in 1890 and, discharging his duties in an able manner he was re-elected in 1892, serving four years. Upon leaving the office in 1894 he turned his attention to the real estate business which he followed with success until 1899, in which year he was appointed postmaster at Falls City by President William McKinley. He discharged his duties in a manner highly acceptable to the people and the authorities until 1904, then turned his attention to the manufacture of what has since become known as one of the most reliable stock powders and stock dips for live stock on the market. The Peerless Stock Powder Company was established in 1904 by Falls City people and Mr. Lewis purchased an interest in the business in January, 1904, and took over the management. He at once began remodeling the plant, making a number of changes to better the output, inventing a better formula. By careful management and wise discrimination, close application and honest dealings with his customers he has increased the business from year to year until it has long since found a ready market over a large territory and its prestige has been growing daily. The annual output at this writing, in 1917, will reach nearly one million pounds. Four of the leading live stock states of the Union are covered largely by the products of this company and used by stock feeders. Large quantities are consigned each week to various points in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. The



business is increasing materially each year. Two expert employees in the manufacture of dip and stock powder are used in the factory all of the time and others when the business requires it. This company also employs from six to ten men as traveling salesmen on the road. Associated with Mr. Lewis in the business are J. H. Miles, A. J. Weaves, J. H. Morehead and Jacob Marmet.

In December, 1883, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage to Eva E. Miller, of Lincoln, Nebraska, she being at that time a student at the State University with Mr. Lewis. She is the daughter of Elder Jason G. Miller, a prominent pioneer of Nebraska, and who was one of the men who helped lay out the state capitol at Lincoln.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis resulted in the birth of four children, namely; Theron E., who lives in the city of Omaha and who is a member of Company D, Fourth Nebraska Regiment, Volunteer Infantry; he saw service on the Mexican border in 1916 and is an electrician by trade. Ralph, the second son, is an employee of the Peerless Stock Powder Company as factory foreman. Ruth, the only daughter, is a graduate of the Falls City high school. She has also pursued a four years' course in the University Conservatory of Music at Lincoln, Nebraska. She is an accomplished musician and a successful music teacher. Ruth Lewis now has the data and will join the Daughters of the American Revolution. Don, the youngest of the children, is an employee of the Peerless Stock Powder Company and is an expert in the manufacture of stock dip, insecticides and stock remedies used extensively by farmers in preserving their stock and making them more thrifty.

Mr. Lewis has long been a potent factor in local public affairs. He is a Republican, a member of the progressive wing of that party. He belonged to the state central committee in 1896, 1912 and 1916. He was assistant secretary of the state Senate in 1885, 1887 and 1889. While a member of the above named committee he served on the executive committee. He filled these responsible positions in a manner that reflected much credit upon himself and to the eminent satisfaction of all concerned. He took a leading part in making Falls City a dry town, and campaigned Richardson county during the fight between the wets and drys in 1916; in fact, he helped to make the state of Nebraska dry. He has long been a relentless foe of the liquor traffic and has done a most commendable work for prohibition. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, and was a delegate to the national camp of this order in Toledo, Ohio, 1914; he also belongs to the Royal Highlanders. He attends the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Lewis is a born leader of men; he is aggressive, educated, well informed on all important topics of the world, familiar with the world's best literature; he is a man of keen business acumen and executive ability, and he takes an abiding interest in the general progress of his city and community, and his honesty and probity of character have never been questioned.

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### JAMES S. HILLYARD.

One of the most widely and favorably known manufacturing firms of Falls City, Richardson county, is that of Hillyard & Son. Mr. Hillyard, of this review, was born on August 1, 1865, in Caldwell county, Kentucky. He is a son of Thomas L. and Nancy (Hart) Hillyard, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of South Carolina. William L. Hillyard, the paternal grandfather of the gentleman whose name initiates this sketch, was born and reared in Kentucky and was a son of Alexander Hillyard, a native of Virginia and an early pioneer settler of Kentucky, where he settled in the year 1816 on a large Revolutionary land grant, which was handed down to his children. William L. Hillyard was a strong Union sympathizer and did not believe in slavery on any terms. Thomas L. Hillyard was born August 27, 1840, and died March 14, 1913. His wife, Nancy Hart, was born in 1841 and died in 1868, leaving two children, James S. of this sketch; and Mrs. Belle McGough, of Caldwell county, Kentucky, in which county the father of these children lived and died, spending his active life in agricultural pursuits.

James S. Hillyard grew to manhood in his native county and was educated in the public schools. He left home in 1881, making his own living in Kentucky for three years. In 1884 he came to Phillips county, Kansas, and in 1886 located in Gage county, Nebraska, where he followed farming for five years. In 1891 he moved to Pawnee county, this state, where he engaged in farming three years. In September, 1895, he located in Falls City, where he began working at the carpenter's trade which he followed for four years then began contracting on his own account, purchasing the Johnson factory, which he has greatly improved, including the installation of modern machinery. It is located at 1619 Chase street. He has admitted his son, Fred, and they are engaged successfully in the manufacture of window frames, door frames, screen frames and all work for buildings, being general manufacturers of wood work. The factory was established in 1913. They turn out



first-class work in all lines, and employ a number of highly-skilled workmen. Mr. Hillyard followed contracting for a period of fourteen years, erecting dwellings, barns and other buildings throughout Richardson county, including many of the largest and most modern buildings in this part of the state. Some of the leading citizens of the county gave him the contracts for their residences, including that of John Towle, just west of Falls City. In one year he built two large residences for W. R. Holt and one each for A. J. Spofford, John Ross, T. T. Ross and T. J. Whitaker.

Mr. Hillyard was married in 1888 to Mary McCurry, who was born in Green county, Tennessee. She is a daughter of Joseph McCurry, who settled in Gage county, Nebraska, many years ago and there became well established on a farm. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hillyard: Fred, born July 25, 1890, is engaged in business with his father; he was married on April 9, 1910, to Emma Stradter, of Humboldt, Richardson county, and they have one child, Harry, born on March 15, 1911. Charles, second child of the subject of this sketch, was born on December 25, 1891, died on September 17, 1906; Thomas, February 21, 1894; Mabel, May 25, 1896, and Nellie, November 25, 1902.

Politically, Mr. Hillyard is a Republican, but is inclined to vote independently. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and, religiously, he belongs to the United Brethren church. He takes a deep interest in promoting the general welfare of his city and county.

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### SAMUEL F. HEIM.

Among the extensive and prosperous farmers of Richardson county must be included Samuel F. Heim, of Grant township, owner of seventeen hundred and sixty acres of excellent farming land, three hundred and twenty acres of which are located in sections 10 and 16, in Grant township, and fourteen hundred and forty acres in Hitchcock county, this state. He was born on November 17, 1859, in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, and is the son of Jacob G. and Regina (Gross) Heim, who were also born in the Keystone state and to whom further and more detailed reference is made in another part of this work, in the course of a sketch relating to Joseph G. Heim, a brother of the subject of this sketch.

Jacob G. Heim, who came to Nebraska in 1874, was born in Pennsyl-

vania on June 15, 1832, the son of Gottleib and Margaret (Steiger) Heim, who came to America from Germany about 1808. Up to the time of his retirement a few years before his death, Jacob G. Heim was actively engaged in operating his farm of four hundred acres in section 15, Grant precinct, in which he was the pioneer settler of the Pennsylvania colony. He was married to Regina Gross, who was born on July 13, 1825, and is now in her ninety-second year. Jacob G. and Regina (Gross) Heim were the parents of eleven children, four of whom are deceased, the others being Joseph G., who lives in Dawson, this county; Mrs. Sarah Ulmer, who lives in Grant township; Samuel F., the subject of this sketch; Jonathan W.; Rebecca, the wife of Jacob Heim; Sophia, who married Martin D. Ulmer, and Margaret, who is the wife of Thomas Wuster, and all of whom are living in Grant precinct, this county. The father of these children died in 1914 and his widow now lives with her daughter, Mrs. Sarah Ulmer.

Samuel F. Heim was in his fifteenth year when he came with his parents to Nebraska, arriving on June 11, 1874, and remained at Rulo for a brief period of three weeks with some friends and on July 3, moved with his parents to Grant precinct. His first employment in Richardson county was herding cattle on the plains and farming. Some time later he obtained his first tract of land from his father, who had purchased a half section in Grant township, and Samuel F. Heim began farming operations on his own account. As he prospered in his farming work, he continued to add to his land holdings and is now the owner of seventeen hundred and sixty acres of prime tillage and fattening land. On his holdings, generally, Mr. Heim has effected some very extensive improvements and has set out an excellent grove of trees and an orchard and in the latter is engaged in fruit-growing, the produce being sold and shipped in large quantities. Mr. Heim has been one of the Richardson county farmers who has helped to reclaim the prairie and convert it into well-cultivated fields and pasture lands.

On February 14, 1889, Samuel F. Heim was united in marriage to Elizabeth Heim, who was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, and is the daughter of John J. and Rosa (Heim) Heim, who were the parents of seven children, all of whom are now living. **John Heim and wife now reside** on section 10, Grant township. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel F. Heim are the parents of six children, namely: Mrs. Luella Clark Belden, residing in Montana; Mrs. Adah F. James, who lives in Porter precinct; Tillie, who married Ed. Richards, living in Porter precinct; Melvin, Mary and Richard, at home.

Mr. Heim is a supporter of the Republican party, but has never held



public office. He and his family are members of the United Evangelical church, and are liberal supporters of its various activities. In 1916 Mr. Heim installed throughout his home and barns a Delco electric system, using the lights in the home and the outbuildings; also using the electric system for pumping water, washing and many other purposes.

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### CHARLES G. HARGRAVE.

Charles G. Hargrave, well-known clothing merchant at Falls City and proprietor of clothing stores also at Wymore and Kearney, this state, is a native of the neighboring state of Iowa, but has been a resident of Nebraska since 1892, when he became engaged in the clothing business at Wymore; moving to Falls City in 1900. He was born at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, son of Thomas E. and Mary (Pyle) Hargrave, the former of whom was born at Richmond, Virginia, and the latter at Steubenville, Ohio, both of old Colonial stock, the Hargraves having been represented in this country since the days of the Pilgrim Fathers. Thomas E. Hargrave, who was a son of Lemuel Hargrave and wife, natives of Virginia, was reared at Richmond and there trained to the dry-goods business. In 1854 he came West and located at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, where he engaged in the dry-goods business and where he and his wife spent their last days, the former dying on December 11, 1897, at the age of sixty-eight years. His widow survived him for more than seventeen years, her death occurring on February 4, 1915, she then being seventy-seven years of age. They were the parents of seven children, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Mary V., who is buyer for a dry-goods firm at Kaufman, Texas; Mrs. J. L. Wilson, a widow, of Salt Lake City; Thomas, who was a clothing merchant at Wymore and at Kearney, this state, and who died in 1913; Miss Etna Hargrave, of Salt Lake City, and two who died in infancy.

Reared at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Charles G. Hargrave received his early schooling in the schools of that city and supplemented the same by a course in Howe's Academy, which he entered in 1875. From the days of his boyhood he had been made familiar with the dry-goods business in his father's store and upon completing his schooling entered the store and was engaged in business with his father until 1892, in which year he came to this state, and became engaged with his brother, Thomas P. Hargrave, in the clothing business, the brothers establishing stores at Wymore and at Kearney, a connection

which continued until the death of the younger brother in 1913. In 1900 Charles G. Hargrave established a clothing store at Falls City and has since made that city his home, at the same time continuing to carry on the business of his stores at Wymore and at Kearney, and has long been recognized as one of the leading merchants of the city.

On January 20, 1897, at Chicago, Illinois, Charles G. Hargrave was united in marriage to Jessie Roper, who was born in that city, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Roper, the former of whom was a Chicago banker, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Thomas E. Hargrave, who was born at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Hargrave have a very pleasant home at Falls City and since taking up their residence there have taken an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of the city. They are members of the Episcopal church and, fraternally, Mr. Hargrave is affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

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#### GEORGE G. GANDY, M. D.

There is no royal road to success in the medical profession, those who achieve laurels in the practice of the same being compelled to lead lives of strenuous endeavor, after laying well a broad and deep foundation. Realizing this at the outset of his career, Dr. George G. Gandy, of Humboldt, Richardson county, has left no stone unturned whereby he might advance himself and he has achieved success in his chosen vocation, while yet a young man.

Doctor Gandy was born on January 3, 1880, in Humboldt, Nebraska. He is a son of Dr. James L. and Mary (Ott) Gandy. Dr. James L. Gandy was born near Clarksburg, Virginia, in 1844. He is a son of Dr. William O. Gandy, also a native of Virginia, who moved to Indiana, where he practiced medicine for many years, later settling in Iowa. Thus the subject of this review descended from a long line of physicians, and therefore evidently possessed much natural ability in this line. His father, who is now living retired at Humboldt, studied medicine with his father, and during the Civil War he enlisted in the Union army hospital service. He returned home and completed his medical course at Rush Medical College, Chicago, graduating with the class of 1867. He had previously pursued a medical course at Ann Arbor, Michigan, in the State University. He began the practice of his profession in White Cloud, Iowa, and in 1869 began practicing at Table



Rock, Nebraska, later coming to Humboldt, Richardson county, where he built up a large practice, ranking among the leading local doctors of his day in this county. His wife, Mary Ott, was born in 1848, in Indiana. To these parents seven children were born, two of whom are now deceased, and four daughters and one son living.

Dr. George G. Gandy received his early education in the Humboldt public schools, began studying medicine when but a boy under his father, and later entered Ensworth Medical College at St. Joseph, Missouri, from which institution he was graduated in 1902. In the spring of that year he entered the Chicago Polyclinic Institute, where he studied for some time. He began the practice of his profession at Covington, Oklahoma, where he remained two years, then in 1904, came to his home town and has since maintained his office in Humboldt and has had splendid success as a general practitioner, soon taking his position among the leading medical men in southeastern Nebraska. He took a post-graduate course in Allgemeines Krankenhaus (Hospital) in Vienna, Austria, in 1910. He attended clinics conducted by the famous Doctor Lorenz and others of the most noted medical men and instructors of the old world. He also pursued a course at Westminster Hospital, London, England, in the same year. He traveled extensively in Europe while abroad and was a spectator of the famous Passion Play at Oberammergau, Bavaria, which play is given every ten years. He has one of the best equipped offices in the state, which is located in the Park Hotel building. His furnishings and equipment are all modern and have been collected at great expense. He has the only real X-ray machine in southeastern Nebraska.

Doctor Gandy was married in London, England, September 6, 1910, to Clementine Rousek, a daughter of J. W. Rousek, who was also touring Europe at the time, with relatives, and Doctor and Mrs. Gandy finished a tour of the continent together. She was a daughter of J. W. Rousek, a deceased merchant of Humboldt, Nebraska. This family, like the Gandys, have long been well and favorably known in Richardson county.

Doctor Gandy is a member of the Richardson County Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Association, the American Medical Association and is a life member of the American Medical Association of Vienna, Austria. He is a director in the Home State Bank at Humboldt. He has remained a deep student of all that pertains to his profession, thereby keeping well abreast of the times. He is a man of engaging personality, obliging, sympathetic and of unquestioned integrity.

## FRANK EIS.

One of the most enterprising general farmers and stockmen of Richardson county is Frank Eis, of Humboldt precinct. He came to us from a foreign clime and, seizing upon the superior opportunities offered here, has made a success of his life work. He was born in Chotebor, Bohemia, April 20, 1860. He is a son of Antone and Mary (Zulick) Eis, natives of Bohemia, where they grew up, married and established their home. Seven children were born to them, namely: John, living retired in Humboldt, Nebraska; Mrs. Mary Schwab, deceased; Mrs. Fannie Watzek, living in Humboldt, this state; Mrs. Lizzie Kubick, who lives in Clay Center, Kansas; Frank, of this sketch; the rest of the children died in early life. The parents of these children immigrated to America in 1869, the voyage across the Atlantic requiring thirty-three days, and in December of that year established their future home in Richardson county, Nebraska. They drove from St. Joseph, Missouri, in a sled, on Christmas day, and located on land in Speiser township, a mile west of the present Eis homestead, the father buying eighty acres for which he paid the sum of one thousand dollars. He built a stone house, containing only one room and when spring came he broke the prairie sod with oxen. His nearest market was Brownville, Nebraska. He endured the usual hardships of life on the Western frontier, but being a hard worker developed a farm and had a comfortable home in due course of time, continuing general farming until his death, which occurred in 1899, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. His wife had preceded him to the grave in 1892 at the age of seventy-six years.

Frank Eis spent his childhood in Bohemia, being nine years old when the family came to the United States. He attended the common schools for some time in Humboldt township, Richardson county. He helped his father with the general work on the home farm until he was eighteen years old, then, desiring to further his education he entered the Humboldt high school, where he studied for some time, then began clerking for the Nims Brothers in their general store in Humboldt. He continued working in Humboldt for sixteen years, then worked with his brother, John, on a farm. He bought his present farm in 1889 and has been very successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising on the same place, which excellent and well-improved farm consists of four hundred and eighty acres. He built a large modern home in 1915, which is equipped with electric lights, bath, sewer, furnace and hot and cold water fixtures, and is one of the most de-



sirable and attractive dwellings in the county. He also has substantial barns and other outbuildings. Everything about his place denotes thrift and good management. He drove three yoke of oxen to a plow, breaking wild prairie in his boyhood. He has been a hard worker all his life.

Mr. Eis was married in 1889, to Mary Petrashek, who was born in Toledo, Ohio. She is a daughter of John and Mary (Skalak) Petrashek, both natives of Bohemia, from which country they came to America about a half century ago, and located in Richardson county, in 1867. Both are now deceased. Three children have been born to Frank Eis and wife, named as follows: Frank, Jr., Rudolph, and Arthur, all at home.

Politically, Mr. Eis is a Democrat. He was reared in the faith of the Catholic church. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, and the C. S. P. S. Bohemian lodge.

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#### LEWIS M. BILLINGS.

Another enterprising young farmer of Humboldt precinct, Richardson county is Lewis M. Billings, who was born in Adair county, Iowa, September 18, 1878. He is a son of John and Sophia (Meliza) Billings, the subject of this sketch being their only child. The father was born in Iowa, where he grew up, married and spent his life, dying there in 1879 at the early age of twenty-eight years. His widow subsequently married James M. Trimble, and one child was born to their union. Sophia Meliza was born in Indiana and died in 1898 at the age of forty-seven years.

Lewis W. Billings was but a child when his father died and he grew up on the farm of his stepfather and he received his education in the district schools, also the high school at Humboldt, Nebraska, later took a course in telephone engineering in the International Correspondence Schools at Scranton, Pennsylvania. He worked at the telephone business for nine years at Table Rock, also at Omaha, Nebraska, holding a position in the Union depot in the latter city for the Markell dining car system. Later, he was employed by the Hammond packing plant at south Omaha, in the fire department. In 1913 he came to Richardson county and bought his present farm of eighty acres in section 18, Humboldt precinct, and here he has since been engaged in general farming, specializing in high-grade Poland China hogs. He has made many improvements on the place.

Mr. Billings was married on June 10, 1903, to Lydia E. Rist, who was

born on August 25, 1881, in Richardson county, and here she was reared to womanhood and educated. She is a daughter of Christian and Emma (Hunzeker) Rist, natives of Berne, Switzerland, from which country they came to Richardson county, in pioneer days and here became well established through their industry. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Billings, Loreene, whose birth occurred March 7, 1912.

Politically, Mr. Billings is a Democrat. He has served as assessor of Humboldt township. He attends the Christian church.

In the spring of 1917 Mr. Billings embarked in the thoroughbred poultry business with G. J. Cernohlavek as partner, the firm being known as the "Banner Poultry Farm." Many up-to-date poultry and brooder houses were built; also a modern hatchery of ten thousand-egg capacity. The "Banner Poultry Farm" breeds all of the popular breeds of chickens, as well as Belgium hares and Carneaux pigeons. It is one of the best equipped poultry farms in the state.

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### JAMES WILLIAM LUNDY.

James W. Lundy, one of Barada precinct's well-known and substantial retired farmers and stockmen, now living at Shubert, where he has a very pleasant home, is a native of the neighboring state of Missouri, but has been a resident of Nebraska since he was five years of age, his parents having settled on this side the river in 1863, becoming counted among the most substantial and useful pioneers of the half-breed strip in the precinct of Barada. He was born in Johnson county, Missouri, March 4, 1858, son of Ebenezer and Paulina (Chapman) Lundy, pioneers of Richardson county, whose last days were spent here.

Ebenezer Lundy was born in Grayson county, Virginia, in 1832, son of Samuel Lundy and wife, also Virginians, and was early trained to the trade of stonemason. He married Paulina Chapman, who was born in Butler county, Kentucky, on September 20, 1835, of colonial ancestry. Tracing a lineage back to 1676. An ancestor owned Lundy's Lane, of Revolutionary fame; Benjamin Lundy, the great abolitionist, was another famous ancestor. After his marriage he settled in Missouri, remaining there until 1862, when he came over into the then Territory of Nebraska and became engaged on the construction of the bridge across the Missouri at Nemaha City. While thus engaged he bought a tract of land in the Barada half-breed strip in this county, just on the county line, and there estab-





JAMES W. LUNDY AND FAMILY.





lished his home. There was a log cabin there and in that humble abode he and his family made their home until after awhile, when lumber became more plentiful, he erected a frame house. By that time he had one of the best-developed farms in that neighborhood and was recognized as one of the leading pioneers of the strip, helpful in many ways in promoting the early interests of his home precinct. There he and his wife spent their last days, the latter dying in June, 1902, he surviving until in June, 1909. They were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being Emma, wife of A. J. Hanika, of Shubert; Mrs. Mollie Stotts, of Shubert, and Effie, wife of Daniel Lewis, a well-known farmer of the precinct of Barada.

As noted above, J. W. Lundy was but five years of age when he came with his parents from Missouri to Nebraska and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Barada precinct, familiar from boyhood with the life of the pioneers of the sixties, and his youth was given over largely to herding cattle on the plains. He received his schooling in the local schools that quickly were organized in his neighborhood and remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, when he became engaged as a herder on the John P. Smith ranch in Pawnee county and was thus engaged for a year, at the end of which time he resumed farming and was thus actively engaged until his retirement in 1913. He was married in 1884 and in 1886 his father gave him an "eighty," three miles west of Barada, where he established his home, continuing to develop and improve that place until he had one of the best-improved farms thereabout. To that tract he added an adjoining "forty" and when his father's estate was divided he received an additional "eighty," and bought other land, thus being now possessed of three hundred and thirty acres of fine land in the precinct of Barada, one of the best farming regions in Nebraska, besides eight acres in the town of Shubert, and has a half section in Texas—six hundred and fifty-eight acres in all. In addition to his general farming Mr. Lundy gave considerable attention to the raising of live stock and did very well in his operations. On January 1, 1913, he retired from the farm, bought a fine home in Shubert and there he and his wife have since been living, very comfortably situated. Mr. Lundy is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

On March 26, 1884, J. W. Lundy was united in marriage to Emma Barker, who was born in Nemaha county, this state, March 8, 1868, daughter of Henry and Amanda (Davis) Barker, natives, respectively, of Missouri

and of Iowa, who were married in Nebraska and became well-to-do residents of Nemaha county. Henry Barker was a son of William Barker and wife, who came over into the then Territory of Nebraska in the early sixties from Missouri, and Amanda Davis was a daughter of Mathias Davis and wife, who became residents of the Territory in 1865, coming over here from Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Lundy have four sons, namely: Louis Lundy, who married Minnie Lehan and is now living in Idaho; Dr. Fred Lundy, a practicing physician of Seattle, Washington, who married Ruby Leedam on December 23, 1916; Ray Lundy, who married Nellie Bucholz and is living on the old home farm in Barada precinct, and has an infant child, Glen Eugene, and Clark Lundy, also on the home farm, who married Vera McDowell and has one child, a son, William Ervin. J. W. Lundy is a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Degree of Honor and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

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### JOHN H. KOSO.

When John H. Koso came over into this county from Missouri in the spring of 1899 and bought the farm on which he is now living in East Barada precinct some of his new neighbors were good enough to tell him that nobody had ever been able to make a living on that place and that he, too, would be starved out, which was not very encouraging for a new settler. However, Mr. Koso did not starve; and, not only that, but he has added to his land holdings, is free from debt and besides developing a fine farm plant on his place has been able to make other investments. All of which simply goes to show that there may be different ways of getting results, for Mr. Koso certainly has been successful where others seemed to have failed, and is now accounted one of the substantial farmers of the northeastern part of Richardson county.

John H. Koso was born at Solon Mills, McHenry county, Illinois, in 1858, son of Joseph and Sophia Koso, both of European birth, natives of the grand duchy of Mecklenburg, who were the parents of three children, and the latter of whom was married three times, being the mother of eleven children in all. When John H. Koso was two years of age his father died and his childhood was spent in the households of his uncles, John Koso and George Sutton. When sixteen years of age, in 1874, he left Illinois and



came over into Nebraska to make his home with Peter Thelk in this county, working for him and attending the Lutheran school in the neighborhood of the Thelk home, and remained there for three years, during which time he learned to speak and to read German. In 1877 he returned to Illinois, where he learned the cooper's trade and where he remained until 1883, in which year he returned West and in the vicinity of Thayer, Kansas, became employed as a farm hand and continued thus engaged until his marriage in the fall of 1885, when he rented a farm and began farming on his own account. In December, 1894, Mr. Koso disposed of his interests in Kansas and moved over into Gentry county, Missouri, where he bought a farm of fifty-eight acres and where he remained until the spring of 1899, when he sold his Missouri farm and came over into Nebraska, arriving in this county on April 5 of that year with his household goods, his live stock and nine hundred dollars in cash. This sum he applied on the purchase of seventy acres in section 27 of the precinct of Barada, a tract that had had several previous owners, and there established his home and proceeded to improve and develop the place. Despite the fact that neighbors told him he would starve on the place, as others, they said, had done, Mr. Koso went right ahead with his farming operations and soon found himself on the way to prosperity. He planted an orchard, built a new barn and made other improvements on the place; in 1911 bought an adjoining "forty" and in 1913 bought another similar tract to the east, and now has a well-improved and profitably cultivated farm of one hundred and fifty acres in sections 27 and 28. By 1913 Mr. Koso had his land all paid for and has since been able to extend his investments in other directions, thus conclusively refuting the doleful predictions made by his neighbors when he took possession of his present fine home place less than twenty years ago.

On October 15, 1885, John H. Koso was united in marriage to Alice Elliott, who was born at Watson, Illinois, February 2, 1865, daughter of Sanford and Frances (Field) Elliott, natives, respectively, of Kentucky and of Illinois, who later moved from Effingham, Illinois, to Livingston county, Missouri, where they spent their last days. Sanford Elliott and wife were the parents of seven children and one of their sons, Milton Elliott, was a soldier of the Union during the Civil War, having run away from home when fifteen years of age to enter the service. Mr. and Mrs. Koso have seven children, namely: Orin, who is a farmer in Barada precinct; John, also a farmer in the precinct of Barada; Mrs. Effie Brooks, of the precinct of Falls City, and Hance, Mary, Quentin and Augusta, at home. The Koso

family have a very pleasant home and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of their home community. Mr. Koso is a Republican and, fraternally, is affiliated with the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest.

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#### PERRY POLLARD.

A man like Perry Pollard, of Humboldt precinct, Richardson county, who makes a specialty of raising a superior grade of live stock, does an inestimable amount of good in his locality. His specialty, as is well known, is that of breeding fine Poland China hogs in connection with his general farming pursuits. He was born on his present farm, August 14, 1861, and he is a son of Pharagus and Sarah (Crook) Pollard, pioneers of this section of Nebraska.

Pharagus Pollard was born in Tennessee about 1830; he came with Jesse Crook to Richardson county, April 5, 1855, locating near Falls City; he later owned various farms until he bought the one owned by his son, Perry, on which he established his permanent home. It was wild prairie land, but he broke up the sod, working with oxen for some time, and put it under cultivation, and built a log cabin on the place. He endured the usual hardships of those who essay a life on the frontier. After coming here he engaged to dig wells for a number of the settlers in order to get money with which to carry on general farming. He was a soldier in the Civil War, having enlisted in Company G, Second Nebraska Cavalry, at Falls City, and went to the front as corporal. He made a brave and efficient soldier and died while in the service of his country, of sickness. He was a son of Jesse Pollard, a native of North Carolina, who in later life came to Richardson county, to live with his son, Pharagus. Sarah Crook was born in White county, Tennessee, January 12, 1831. She spent her latter years among her children, living to advanced age, her death occurring on February 12, 1917. She was a member of the Christian church. Her family consisted of seven children, only one of whom is now deceased.

Perry Pollard was reared on the homestead in Humboldt precinct; in fact, he has never lived anywhere else. He worked hard when a boy and has kept the place well improved and under a fine state of cultivation. He owns two hundred acres of the homestead and has made a success as a general farmer and stock raiser. He began breeding Poland China hogs in 1913



and has now a fine herd, his hogs finding a very ready market owing to their superior quality; he has always raised a standard bred hog.

Mr. Pollard has remained unmarried. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is president of the Farmers Union, of which he was one of the organizers. It now has three hundred members and it has proven to be an excellent thing for the farmers of this district, and they are able to get better prices for their products, some of which are now stored to await the best season in which to sell. Politically, he is a Democrat.

The following children were born to Pharagus and Sarah Pollard: Jesse A., who lives in Phillips county, Kansas; Isaac N., living on the home place; Christopher Columbus lives in Humboldt, Nebraska; Elizabeth J. is the wife of J. A. Kunze, and they live in Rosalia, Kansas; Andrew J., deceased; Perry S., of this sketch, and Eva, wife of St. Clair Ray, lives in Humboldt.

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### JOHN FANKHAUSER.

Speiser township, Richardson county, has no more painstaking tiller of the soil than John Fankhauser, who hails from that splendid little republic in the Alps, Switzerland, from whence so many of our good citizens have come. He was born there on February 3, 1842, and is a son of John U. and Barbara (Rothenbuhler) Fankhauser, natives of Switzerland, where they grew up and married, but emigrated with their family to America in 1847, locating in Fulton county, Ohio, where they remained until 1864, when they came to Richards county, buying the farm on which their son, John, now resides in Speiser township. There they started life in typical pioneer fashion, building a log house and breaking the virgin sod of the plains with oxen and horses. Two years later the log house was replaced with a better frame dwelling, also a barn was built at that time. The father succeeded by perseverance and farmed here until his death in November, 1873, at the age of sixty-one years. As he prospered he added to his original holdings until he owned four hundred acres. His wife was born in 1806 and died in 1874, about two months after the death of her husband. They were parents of six children, two of whom are now deceased.

John Fankhauser was five years old when his parents brought him to America. He grew up on the farm and attended the district schools only three months of a year, attending school in a log cabin. He came to Richardson county a few months preceding the rest of the family, his father having sent him here to look up a new home and to buy land. When a boy

he worked in the timber a great deal. He worked hard helping his father develop the farm in Speiser precinct, and remained at home until 1872 when he married and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Humboldt precinct, where he farmed until 1877, when he moved to his present farm, having traded his homestead to the rest of the heirs for the old home place. His farm consists of two hundred and twenty acres, in section 15. He also owns two hundred acres in section 10, one hundred and twenty acres in section 11, and one hundred and eighty-seven acres in section 14, all in Speiser precinct. He has managed well and has met with a larger measure of success than falls to the lot of the average farmer. He is a man of sound judgment and wise foresight. He engages in general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale. He and his brother, Peter, worked the home place about two years. In 1911 he erected a modern ten-room house, which is nicely furnished and in the midst of attractive surroundings. He also has four substantial cattle and horse barns and everything about his home place denotes good management and prosperity. He has for many years fed cattle for the markets extensively one or two carloads each year. He is a good judge of live stock, especially cattle and no inconsiderable portion of his annual income is derived from the judicious handling of live stock.

Politically, the subject of this sketch is a Democrat, but he has never aspired to public office. He belongs to the German Reformed church.

Mr. Fankhauser has been twice married, first, in 1869, to Magdalene Oberly, who was born in Switzerland. Her death occurred in 1885 at the early age of thirty-three years. This first union resulted in the birth of nine children, namely: Elizabeth, deceased; Magdalene, the wife of William Stalder of Speiser precinct; Mary, the wife of Ferdinand Stalder, of Humboldt precinct; Minnie, deceased; Henrietta, the wife of Alfred Stettler, a farmer, of Speiser precinct; Christena is the wife of Charles Porr, of Speiser precinct; Mrs. Amanda Von Bergen, of Nemaha precinct; Sarah, who married Joe Wittwer, is deceased, and Rosa lives in the town of Humboldt.

The second marriage of Mr. Fankhauser was celebrated on February 11, 1886, when he espoused Elizabeth Leuenberger, who was born on October 12, 1862, in Switzerland, from which country she came to America in 1885, locating in Richardson county, with her three sisters. Ten children have been born to this second union, namely: Elizabeth, the wife of Alfred Kanel, of Speiser precinct; Frederick, living in Humboldt precinct; William, at home; Lelia, the wife of Alfred Guerber and they live in Oregon; Elmer, Caroline, Raymond R., Helen, Arthur D. are all at home; one child died in infancy, unnamed.



## FREDERICK H. SCHOCK.

One of the most enterprising of the younger merchants of Falls City, Richardson county, is Frederick H. Schock, who was born on May 31, 1882, in the above named town and country and he has preferred to remain in his native state, believing that Nebraska offers better opportunities than he could find elsewhere. He is a son of George A. and Sarah (Melhorn) Schock, whose family consisted of six children, five of whom died in infancy, the subject of this review being the only one now living. The birth of the father occurred on January 4, 1850, in Seneca county, Ohio, at the town of Flat Rock. He is a son of Charles and Susan (Arnold) Schock, whose family consisted of eleven children. Charles Schock was born near Georgetown, Pennsylvania, in 1819 and died in 1875. He devoted his life to general farming. His wife, Susan Arnold, was also a native of Pennsylvania, from which state she went to Ohio when young and there was married. Her birth occurred in the year 1828 and she died in 1884. Charles Schock and wife were members of the Evangelical church.

George A. Schock, father of the subject of this sketch, was reared on the home farm and received a meager education in the early day schools. When a young man he learned the carpenter's trade, but later turned his attention to railroading, which he followed for seventeen years. In 1882 he came West and located at Falls City, Nebraska, where he followed his trade as carpenter until his retirement. George A. Schock and Sarah Melhorn were married on October 2, 1881. The latter was born in Elkhart county, Indiana, April 16, 1854.

Frederick H. Schock, familiarly known as Fred, grew to manhood in Falls City and there received his education in the public schools, graduating from the high school with the class of 1898. After leaving school and deciding upon a career as merchant he began clerking in the store of Cleveland Brothers, general merchants. Later he went to Salem and then to Nebraska City, where he remained in the same kind of employment until in January, 1909, when he returned to Falls City and opened up a ready-to-wear store. By careful and judicious management he was successful from the start and has succeeded in building up a large and growing trade, carrying a complete line of goods and there is no more modernly appointed or attractive store in southeastern Nebraska than his. His patrons are drawn from a wide territory.

Mr. Schock was married on June 13, 1908, to Sue Pfann, a native of

Germany and a daughter of John and Susanna (Fanclar) Pfann, natives of Germany from which country they came to Nebraska about the year 1887, locating at Nebraska City, the father following his trade of carpenter. His family consisted of sixteen children, thirteen of whom are still living. Three children have been born to Fred H. Schock and wife, named as follows: Wilbur, whose birth occurred on July 17, 1909; Robert, born January 29, 1913, and Jack K., the last born.

Fraternally, Mr. Schock is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America. He belongs to the Presbyterian church, in which he is an elder and is active in church affairs.

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### OLIVER C. AYERS.

The name of Oliver C. Ayers, a leading agriculturist of Nemaha precinct and one of the most influential men in public affairs in southeastern Nebraska, is too well known to the people of Richardson county to need any formal introduction to the readers of this history. He was born on August 3, 1871, in Tompkins county, New York, and is a son of Nathaniel and Sarah (Ellison) Ayers. The father was born in 1827 and died in 1897; the mother was born in 1836 and died in 1907. Their family consisted of three children, namely: Oliver C., of this sketch; William lives in the state of Washington, and James has charge of the telephone system at Verdon, Nebraska. The father, Nathaniel Ayers, was a descendant of an old American family, dating back to 1692, when the first Ayers emigrated from Scotland to our shores, locating in New Jersey. The subject of this sketch, whose grandfather was Elias Ayers, is the seventh generation of the Ayers proper in this country, the name having originally been "Eyer." Nathaniel Ayers engaged in farming in the state of New York. He left the old homestead in 1881 and came to Richardson county, locating in Nemaha precinct, where he prospered through close application and good management, becoming owner of four hundred acres of valuable land, on which he carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale. He made many improvements on the land, including the building of a commodious residence and numerous large barns and other buildings.

Oliver C. Ayers spent his early boyhood on the home farm in New York. He received his education in the public schools. He assisted his father with the general work on the farm after the family moved to Rich-



ardson county, finally buying out the home place and continued general farming operations along the lines inaugurated by his father, introducing such various new methods as have been consistent with modern ideas of scientific farming and stock raising, and he has been very successful in all departments. He has kept the land not only well improved but has prevented the wearing out of the original fertility of the soil. He is a good judge of live stock and annually prepares large numbers for the market. His modern home was built in 1914. It has electric lights and furnace heat. There are two sets of buildings on his fine farm, which is second bottom land.

Mr. Ayers was married on March 23, 1898, to Olive Smith, who was born on March 9, 1876, in Nemaha precinct, Richardson county, where she grew to womanhood and was educated. She is a daughter of Charles and Lucinda (Lockwood) Smith. The father was born on March 19, 1840, and died in January, 1916. The mother was born in 1850, in the state of New York. Charles Smith was a native of Germany. Lucinda (Lockwood) Smith, who is still living in Nemaha precinct, is a daughter of Joseph and Theta (Martindale) Lockwood, of New York state, who finally moved to Michigan, thence to Minnesota and were early settlers in Richardson county. Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married in 1868. Charles Smith was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War, serving with the troops in Missouri. He came to Nebraska in 1865 and pre-empted land. He enlisted in February, 1862, in Company G, Fifth Missouri Cavalry, and was honorably discharged, June 22, 1863. He joined the Grand Army of the Republic in 1883. He took an active interest in public affairs and served a term in the Nebraska Legislature in 1899, being elected on the Republican ticket.

To Charles Smith and wife the following children were born: Fred, who lives on the home place; Mrs. George F. Funk lives near Dawson; Olive, wife of Mr. Ayers of this review; Mrs. Bennett Stalder lives near Salem, Nebraska; Mrs. F. C. French lives in Lincoln, this state; and Frank, who died in 1912. A brother of Charles Smith, Peter Smith, lives near Dawson, Richardson county.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver C. Ayers moved to Falls City in April, 1913, but returned to the farm in 1914.

Politically, Mr. Ayers is a Republican and he has long been regarded as one of the leaders of his party in Richardson county. In the fall of 1912 he was elected as representative from the third district to the state Legislature, and he made a most commendable record in that body during the

session of 1913. He was appointed a member of the following committees: Agriculture, drainage, live stock and grazing, and asylums. He introduced three excellent bills; one providing for a county farm demonstrator, on petition of five per cent of the freeholders, which bill was passed; another was to prevent seining in Nebraska and boundary streams by holders of general fishing license; the third was to put the waters of the Missouri river at the mouth of Nebraska streams under control of the state game warden.

Mr. Ayers is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and he and Mrs. Ayers belong to the United Brethren church. Mr. Ayers was one of the promoters and original stockholders of the Dawson and Nemaha Telephone Company. He was elected a director in the same in 1902, the year the company was organized. Personally, Mr. Ayers is an obliging and public-spirited gentleman, who is regarded as a man of the highest ideals.

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### JOHN E. WISSLER.

The little republic of Switzerland has sent large numbers of her enterprising citizens to America, where they have been quick to fall in line with our institutions, the two governments being very similar, and they have also not been long in obtaining good homes in our vast land of unlimited opportunities. One of this number in Richardson county is John E. Wissler, farmer and stock raiser of Speiser precinct. He was born in the Canton of Berne, Switzerland, April 27, 1850. He is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Rufenacht) Wissler, both natives of Switzerland where they grew up and were married. They immigrated to the United States with their family in 1883. The father was born in 1809 and died in 1886 at the age of seventy-seven years, at the home of his son, subject of this sketch; the mother was born in 1819, and died in 1892. They were parents of the following children; Robert, living in Spesier precinct; Mrs. Lizetta Schindler, who lives near Nebraska City; Mrs. Eliza Neuenschwander lives near Bern, Kansas; Mrs. Mary Friedley died near Humboldt, Nebraska; Gottfried and Ernest both live near Pawnee City, Nebraska; Mrs. Sophie Stuckenholtz died at Julian, Nebraska; Mrs. Emma Stalder lives at Humboldt, Richardson county, and John E., of this sketch.

John E. Wissler grew to manhood in his native land and was educated in the common schools. He immigrated to America in 1870, when twenty years old, coming direct to Richardson county, Nebraska. He had no money,



neither relatives or friends here, but had grit and courage and was willing to work. He came out to Four Mile creek and worked for Sam Bentler for six months for fifteen dollars per month, receiving eighteen dollars per month for his work during the next six months; he also worked for a Mr. Parli in Pawnee county on his big ranch for one year, at a wage of one dollar per day; also for a Mr. Flannigan and Bob Scott, caring for cattle. He was economical and saved his earnings until he had four hundred dollars with which he bought a team and tools; he then rented land adjoining his present farm, two hundred and forty acres in all, which he operated, keeping "batch" the meantime. Later, he got married and bought a place near the Reformed church, living on this farm for twenty years, when he sold out and purchased his present farm, in 1895. He has made many important improvements, replaced the house which was burned on the day he contracted for the farm, with a modern new dwelling, also put up granary and other outbuildings and remodeled the barn. The place consists of two hundred and forty acres of rich bottom land along the Nemaha river. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, having started out with nothing and by his own efforts forged to the front ranks of farmers in the southeastern part of the state. He makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, breeding them for his own use for the past twenty-one years. He sells about forty head annually. He feeds all the grain grown on his place to his own live stock. In 1916 he sold some of his grain, the first he has marketed for thirty years. He is also a breeder of Poland China hogs, the big type thoroughbreds. Owing to their superior quality his fine stock all find a ready market at fancy prices.

Politically, Mr. Wissler is a Democrat. He served as assessor of Speiser precinct. He was elected chairman of drainage district, No. 4, in 1915, which position he still holds, and he has done a very commendable work in this connection. He is a member of the Reformed Lutheran church.

Mr. Wissler was married in 1873 to Mary Lugenbill, a daughter of John Lugenbill, a native of Switzerland, from which country he came to Richardson county, Nebraska, in 1854. He had previously established the family home in Andrew county, Missouri, where his daughter, Mary, was born in 1854, the first white girl in Richardson county. She grew to womanhood in Richardson county and received a common-school education in the pioneer schools here. Gottlieb Wealthy, brother-in-law of John Lugenbill, assisted in surveying southeastern Nebraska and induced John Lugenbill to come.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wissler, named as follows:

Fred, farming three miles south of the homestead; John, farming near Bethany creek; Lizzie is the wife of Henry Hunzeker and they live five miles east of Pawnee, Nebraska; Etta is the widow of Carl Lynch, but her first husband was Sam Hunzeker; William lives at Bern, Kansas; Mrs. Magdalena Hunzeker lives six miles east of Pawnee; Mrs. Mary Griffith lives a mile and a half east of Bern, Kansas, and Rudolph and Charles are both at home.

John Lugenbill, father of Mrs. Wissler, was one of the earliest pioneers of Richardson county, and his daughter, Mary, divides honors with Mrs. Judge J. R. Wilhite, of Falls City, of being the oldest pioneer woman, in point of years of residence, in the county; they both came to the county about the same time—sixty-three years ago. John Lugenbill was a hardy homesteader, enduring the privations and hardships incident to life on the frontier, when neighbors were few and the country was still the domain of the red man. When President Buchanan signed the bill requiring pre-emptors to pay one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre for their land, Mr. Lugenbill was compelled to take the inheritance money and savings of his children to pay for his title. His family spent the winter of 1854-5 in direst poverty, living in a log shack, without comforts and very little provisions. Once while he was logging in the winter time the Indians stole his only team of oxen and drove them away. Taking his gun he trailed them through the snow as far as Brownville, Nebraska, which was a long journey up the river. He overtook the red men and compelled them to give the cattle back to him. He persevered and managed well and prospered with advancing years, finally becoming the owner of three thousand acres of good land in Richardson county, being one of the leading farmers of his county and an influential citizen in the early affairs of the county. He was able to leave his family in very comfortable circumstances. It was such sterling characters as he who redeemed the West and made possible the present-day prosperity and happiness of the people of the great plains country.

The southwestern corner of Richardson county in which the Swiss colony settled is a rich, picturesque country of valleys and hills, timbered along the streams. The valley in which the Wissler family lives is one of the most fertile in the world. During the past few years a great drainage ditch has been constructed, which straightens the course of the Nemaha river, and thousands of acres of excellent overflow land will now be made to yield abundant crops.

The daughters of the Lugenbill family learned to spin wool and weave it into cloth and made the clothes of the family.



## J. A. WAGGENER.

The name of Dr. J. A. Waggener, of Humboldt, has long been a household word in Richardson county, where he is the oldest practicing physician. He was born on October 6, 1852, in Burksville, Kentucky. He is a scion of a fine old Southern family, being a son of Louis A. and Sarah Elizabeth (Alexander) Waggener, both natives of Kentucky, where they grew up, were married and established their home. The father was a well-known and influential man in Cumberland county, serving as sheriff for a period and as county clerk for a period of twelve years. Albert G. Waggener, paternal grandfather of the Doctor, also served as sheriff of that county, he and his son, Louis A., holding office in that county for a period of fifty years in all. The Doctor is the oldest of a family of eleven children, all of whom are living at this writing, namely: Mrs. Mattie Nunn, living in Santa Anna, California; Mrs. Julia Garmon, in Bakersfield, California; James M., of Astoria, Oregon; Mrs. Alverta Wagner, making her home in Harris, Missouri; Mrs. Ella Dewease, of Oklahoma; Mrs. Lizzie Smith, Mrs. Ora Davis, Samuel Tilden and Jennie, all four reside in Kentucky; Mrs. Nannie Judd, in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Dr. J. A., of this sketch.

Doctor Waggener was reared in his native state and he received his early education in the public schools of Cumberland county, later attending the Louisville College of Medicine, Louisville, Kentucky, from which institution he was graduated in 1876. In the fall of 1878 he came to Nebraska, locating at Dawson, Richardson county, where he practiced for a period of twenty-five years, then located in Humboldt, where he has since resided. He has enjoyed a large and lucrative practice ever since coming to this county and has been very successful as a general physician. In October, 1915, he was appointed head physician of the Soldiers Home at Grand Island, which position he held for fifteen months, at the end of which time he returned to Humboldt and resumed practice. He has found time to keep well informed on the progress that has been made in the various phases of his profession since he left college.

Doctor Waggener belongs to the American Medical Association, the Nebraska State Medical Society, the Missouri Valley Medical Society and the Richardson County Medical Society. Politically, he is a Democrat of the old school and has been active in public affairs, taking an interest in whatever tends to promote the general welfare of his county. He served as coroner of the same for two terms, from 1896 to 1900, inclusive, giving

eminent satisfaction to all concerned. Fraternally, he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and Knights and Ladies of Security. He has filled all the chairs in the local lodges of the last two named.

Doctor Waggener was married on March 12, 1878, to Anna Grinsted, a native of Kentucky, and a daughter of G. R. Grinsted, now a resident of Falls City, Nebraska, having moved with his family to Richardson county in March, 1878. For many years he engaged in farming, but is now spending his old age in retirement. The following children have been born to Doctor Waggener and wife: Dr. Hewitt A., a practicing physician in Omaha, Nebraska; Dr. William R., practicing medicine at Humboldt, Richardson county, and is a graduate of Creighton University; Dr. John T., also a graduate in medicine from Creighton University, is engaged in practice at Adams, Nebraska; Lillith, who is a graduate of the State Normal school and the State University at Lincoln, Nebraska, is engaged in teaching at Hamburg, Iowa.

Personally, Doctor Waggener is a man of genial and companionable disposition, upright in all his dealings with the world and merits the high esteem in which he is universally held.

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#### DENNIS McCARTHY.

The late Dennis McCarthy, former street commissioner of Falls City, for more than thirty years proprietor of a successful transfer business in that city and the owner of considerable valuable real estate there, was a native of the Dominion of Canada, but had been a resident of this county since the days of his boyhood, having come here with his parents, after a brief residence in Iowa, in 1870, the family first settling at Salem, later settling in Falls City and becoming substantially established there. Dennis McCarthy was born on March 22, 1859, and was but a child when his parents, Dennis and Mary (Delaney) McCarthy, natives of Ireland, moved from Canada to Iowa, and was a little past eleven years of age when they came to Nebraska, arriving in Richardson county on May 6, 1870.

Upon coming to this county the elder Dennis McCarthy located at Salem, but presently moved thence to Falls City, where he ever since has made his home, one of the best-known men in that city, now making his home with the widow of his son, in the eightieth year of his age. He and his wife, the latter of whom has been deceased for years, were the parents of



five children, those besides the subject of this memorial sketch, the last-born being as follow: Mrs. Mary Kennedy, who is living on a farm in the Barada neighborhood; Margaret, who married William Murphy and is now deceased; John, who is living at the McCarthy home in Falls City, and Patrick, deceased.

As noted above the younger Dennis McCarthy was just past eleven years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1870 and he grew up at Falls City. He early began business there for himself, starting a transfer line, which business grew and developed until it became one of the established enterprises of the city. As he prospered in his affairs he invested in farm lands, which he later sold to advantage, investing the proceeds in city real estate, and eventually became quite well-to-do. When his health began to fail him in 1914 he sold his transfer business, after having been successfully engaged in the same for more than thirty years, and thereafter lived practically retired until his death, which occurred on April 1, 1916, he then being one week past fifty-seven years of age. Mr. McCarthy was a Democrat and for years took an active part in local political affairs. For several years he served as street commissioner and in other ways did his part as a good citizen toward promoting the best interests of his home town. He was a member of the Catholic church, as is his widow, and took an active part in parish affairs, a generous contributor to the support of the church. Fraternally, he was affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and with the Knights of Pythias and in the affairs of these two orders took a warm interest. He had hosts of friends in and about Falls City and there were many sincere mourners when he was called from the scenes of worldly activity.

On January 30, 1890, Dennis McCarthy was united in marriage to Mary Murphy, who was born in the village of Rulo, this county, September 8, 1867, daughter of James and Mary (Burns) Murphy, natives of Ireland and early settlers in this county, whose last days were spent here. James Murphy was born in 1837 and Mary Burns was born in 1847. They grew up and were married in Ireland and then came to this country, locating at Chicago, whence, two years later, they moved to St. Joseph, Missouri, presently coming thence up the river to Rulo, where they established their home. James Murphy was a stone mason and for years was the leading contractor in that line in this county, having built most of the stone bridges in the county in an early day. He also became the owner of a good farm in the vicinity of Rulo and was accounted a well-to-do citizen. His death occurred in February, 1909. He was twice married, his first wife, Mary Burns, having died in 1875, after which he married Ella Sullivan, who died in 1897. By his first marriage Mr. Murphy was the father of five children, of whom Mrs. McCarthy is now

the only survivor, the others having been Elizabeth, Frances, Michael and Anna. To the second union eight children were born, namely: Edward, who died on July 1, 1916; Elizabeth, who is at home on the old home farm in the neighborhood of Rulo; Lawrence, also at home; Josephine, wife of John Sells, of the precinct of Rulo; Helen, a teacher in the schools of Rulo; Mrs. Agnes York, of Liberty, this state; Julia, who died in infancy, and Patrick, at home. The first home of the Murphys in this county was a little log house constructed of logs cut by Mr. Murphy himself and for the first winter or two after the family settled down in that humble home they had to tack sheets and blankets up along the walls to keep the snow from sifting in. Despite the apparent discomfort of this way of living, the family were happy and contented and off the "forty" raised plenty to eat.

To Dennis and Mary (Murphy) McCarthy were born three children, Marie, born on November 21, 1891, who married A. J. Finn, a skilled photographer, of Jefferson, Iowa, and has one child, a son, Cyril; Cyril, March 22, 1893, who is now engaged in the Eldorado oil fields, and Helen, February 13, 1903, who is pursuing her studies in the convent in Falls City. Since the death of her husband Mrs. McCarthy has continued to make her home in Falls City, where she is very comfortably situated, having a delightful home at 922 Stone street. She is an earnest member of the Catholic church and has ever given her devoted attention to local parish affairs, helpful in promoting good works. She is a member of the local branch of the Daughters of Isabel and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

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### WILLIAM H. SAILORS.

The late William H. Sailors, who died at his home in the precinct of Barada on December 5, 1909, and who for many years was one of the best-known farmers of that precinct, was a native of the old Hoosier state, but had been a resident of Richardson county since pioneer days, he and his wife and those of their children who were born in Indiana, having come here in the spring of 1870. He was born on a farm in Rush county, Indiana, April 9, 1837, son of Washington and Asenath (Scott) Sailors, natives of that same state, members of pioneer families in that part of Indiana, and who were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this memorial sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: John, deceased; James A., who was a soldier of the Union army during the Civil





MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM H. SAILORS.





War, having served for three years as a member of the Second Indiana Cavalry; Scott, deceased; Mrs. Mahala Allison, deceased; Andrew, now a resident of Hitchcock county, this state; Lot G., a resident of Bancroft, this state, and George, of Hitchcock county.

Reared on the home farm in Indiana, William H. Sailors grew up there a practical farmer and after his marriage in the fall of 1860 established his home on a farm in Wabash county, Indiana, remaining there until the spring of 1870, when he came with his family to Nebraska, arriving in this county on March 8 of that year. Upon his arrival here he bought a tract of land in the precinct of Barada and there established his home, thus being a resident of this region at the time of the destructive visitation of grasshoppers some years later. Conditions of living were pretty hard for some time thereafter, but he presently began to prosper and as he prospered he gradually added to his land holdings until he became the owner of more than seven hundred acres of land in Barada precinct and was long accounted one of the most substantial farmers and stockmen in that part of the county. He also took an active part in local civic affairs and was for some time a member of the board of supervisors, giving to the public service his most thoughtful and intelligent attention. He was an active member of the Christian church and he and his wife were ever interested in local good works, helpful in promoting all agencies having to do with the advancement of the common welfare in the community in which they lived. William H. Sailors died on December 5, 1909, and on May 20, 1915, his widow left the old home farm and moved to the village of Barada, where she is now living. She is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent land in sections 18 and 19 of Barada precinct.

On October 25, 1860, in Grant county, Indiana, William H. Sailors was united in marriage to Mary E. Miller, who was born in Fayette county, that same state, February 18, 1845, a daughter of George W. and Harriet (Bloomheart) Miller), the former a native of the state of Virginia and the latter of the state of New York, who had moved to Indiana with their respective parents in the days of their youth and had there grown up and married. George W. Miller was the son of Andrew and Elizabeth Miller, natives of Virginia, and his wife was the daughter of Daniel and Clarissa (Gilmore) Bloomheart, natives, respectively, of Holland and of the state of New York. George W. Miller was born on April 5, 1817, and died in 1903. His wife, also born in 1817, preceded him to the grave many years, her death having occurred in 1857.

To William H. and Mary E. (Miller) Sailors were born fourteen

children, namely: James T., of Barada precinct; Melissa, who married R. Ankröm and is now deceased; Washington, a Barada precinct farmer and stockman and a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Harriet, deceased; John H., of Barada precinct; Benjamin, deceased; Clara, deceased; Omer, of Barada precinct; Ida, wife of William Percival, also of the precinct of Barada and a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Lot, deceased; Fred, of Cedar county, this state; William, deceased; Pearl, deceased, and Otis B., of the precinct of Barada.

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### WILLIAM GOETZ.

William Goetz, a well-known farmer of the precinct of East Barada, was born on the farm on which he is now living and which he owns and has lived there all his life. He was born on August 6, 1869, son of Anton and Amelia (Yeager) Goetz, both of whom were of European birth, who became pioneers of Richardson county and here spent their last days, substantial pioneers of the Barada tract.

Anton Goetz was born in the grand duchy of Baden in 1831 and was but a lad when he came to this country with his parents, the family settling in the city of Buffalo, New York, where he grew to manhood and where he married Amelia Yeager, also a native of Baden, born on October 15, 1832, who had come to this country with her parents, her family also settling in Buffalo. Almost immediately after their marriage, about 1858, Anton Goetz and his wife came to the then Territory of Nebraska and settled in the old precinct of St. Stephens, now known as Barada, in this county, where they established their home on a pioneer farm. The first log cabin was destroyed by fire, but they erected another and proceeded with their development work and in time had a well-established home and a profitably cultivated farm. During the early days of their residence there the Indians still were numerous hereabout and the aboriginals frequently found hospitable shelter on their farm in their wanderings to and fro. Anton Goetz was a good farmer and at the time of his death was the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres. He died in 1888 and his widow survived him for many years, her death occurring on September 27, 1905, she then being nearly eighty-five years of age. They were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were five of these children, of whom the eldest died in infancy and of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in



order of birth, the others being Cecelia, of Falls City; Mrs. Amelia Frederick, also of Falls City, and Bertha, a landowner in Barada precinct and a neighbor of her brother, William.

William Goetz has always lived on the farm on which he was born and on which he now makes his residence. Reared there, he received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant in the labors of developing and improving the home place, forty acres of which he inherited after the death of his father. He later bought from his mother an adjoining "forty" and now has a well-kept and profitably cultivated place of eighty acres, on which he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. Goetz is a Democrat and is a member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America.

On November 16, 1899, William Goetz was united in marriage to Louisa Faller, also a native of this county, born in the precinct of Ohio on September 10, 1877, daughter of William and Caroline (Hartbauer) Faller, now living at Falls City, and to this union has been born one child, a son, William A. Goetz.

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#### PROF. DAVID DENNIS.

The life of an educator is, of necessity, one of self-sacrificing devotion to the upbuilding of character and the preparing of future citizens to make their lives an era of usefulness and to be of some benefit to their respective communities. Many successful individuals can conscientiously attribute the surmounting of difficulties which beset their paths in the upward climb, to the teachings and precepts of their former instructors. Prof. David Dennis, deceased, principal of the Falls City schools, during the years 1888 and 1889, was a zealous teacher who left his impress upon the life of the community where he taught the young. Although a resident of Falls City for but a few years, he is well remembered for his good works. Later, he espoused in wedlock a daughter of a distinguished citizen of Falls City and his children reside in Falls City at the present day.

David Dennis was born in Beaver Run, Sussex county, New Jersey, March 16, 1859. He was self-made and self-educated, perforce, on account of circumstances, working his way through Oberlin College, Ohio, becoming a student of the college in 1883 and graduating therefrom in 1888 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, later receiving the degree of Master of Arts. He began teaching at the early age of sixteen years and followed this useful

profession for a number of years, mounting successively to higher positions as he gained experience. During 1888 and 1889 he served as principal of the Falls City schools. From this city he was called to take charge of the academy at Park City, Utah, an institution established by the Gentiles of Utah and supported in their interest as against Mormonism. After three years of service at Park City he advised the abandonment of the academy and suggested that Mormonism could best be fought in its great stronghold, Salt Lake City. From 1892 to 1894 he taught successfully in the seventeenth ward and Bryant schools, Salt Lake City. At the time of his death of pneumonia at Salt Lake City on June 25, 1894, he was principal of the Bryant school. He had planned to give up his educational work and return to Falls City and engage in business, but death intervened.

Professor Dennis was married at Falls City, Nebraska, on July 9, 1891, to Miss Ruth M. Weaver, a daughter of the late Judge Archibald J. and Martha A. Weaver, an extended review of whom is given elsewhere in this volume. To this union were born the following children: David, born May 17, 1892, married Miss Alma Barton, and is a farmer and fruit grower near Falls City, and Ruth M., wife of Walter J. Lewis, of Pasadena, California, mother of one child, Evelyn Louise. The mother of these children resides in the old Weaver home at Falls City with her mother.

Professor Dennis was a deeply religious man and was a member of the Congregational church. His crowning virtue was his religious character, concerning which his pastor, Rev. Clarence T. Brown, of the First Congregational church at Salt Lake City said at the time of his death: "He had a profound veneration for the truth and he was ever on the alert to find it. He represented a very high type of Christianity. The firmness of his faith, combined with the generous hospitality of his thought, put him among the leaders of the church today. \* \* \* But his work as a Christian was not confined to the church. He believed profoundly in applied Christianity; and as a teacher, citizen and man, he did apply his Christianity to such good purpose that no one could mistake it." Professor Dennis lived to make others happy and as much as possible to do good to all men. Just before he left Park City, Utah, to take up his work in Salt Lake City, he ascended one of the mountains with his pastor, Rev. Mr. Hunt, and looking down upon the city, remarked, "I wonder if any life has been sweetened or made better by my having lived here." In his home especially did the goodness of his heart and sterling qualities shine. He was in every sense the true husband and the tender, loving father.



Concerning Professor Dennis's work as an educator the following tribute appears in the superintendent's report of the work done in the Salt Lake City schools during 1894: "On the day before the close of the schools, after his work for the year was practically completed, David Dennis, principal of the Bryant school, was attacked with illness and in ten days from that time his earthly career was ended. Thus for the second time within two years we have been called upon to mourn the loss of one who had earned a high place in the ranks of the profession and in the esteem of his co-laborers and the public. David Dennis was in every sense a man possessed of marked natural ability. He had, under difficulties which tested his worth, given to himself the benefit of a broad, liberal culture. His opinions always commanded respect and his words, wherever spoken, carried with them persuasiveness and force. He was a man of fine convictions, unswerving fidelity to truth as he saw it, of noble aspirations, of pure life. Though so early called to lay down his life's work, he did not live in vain; all whom his influence touched are better and nobler because he lived."

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#### HENRY CLAY DAVIS.

Henry Clay Davis, editor and publisher of the *Falls City News* and one of the "wheel-horses" of the Democratic party in this part of Nebraska, was born at Glasgow, over in the neighboring state of Missouri, April 5, 1850, son of James and Euphemia (Wilson) Davis, the former of whom was born at Georgetown, D. C., in 1804 and the latter in Kentucky, in 1810. James Davis, who was a blacksmith, was married in Kentucky and later moved to Missouri, locating at Glasgow, where he remained until 1877, when he came to Nebraska and settled at Falls City, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring in 1884, he then being eighty years of age, and hers in 1887. They were the parents of three children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being Mrs. Lena Ware, now residing near Kewanee, Illinois, and Mrs. Ella Buckham, deceased.

Reared at Glasgow, Henry Clay Davis received his schooling in the high school and in Pritchard Institute there and at the age of seventeen, in 1867, began his newspaper career in the office of the *Glasgow Times*, then under the ownership and editorial direction of Col. Clark H. Green, where he learned

the elementals of the newspaper business. Two years later he went to St. Louis and there continued his newspaper experience in the office of the *St. Louis Republic*, presently going thence to Hamburg, Iowa, where for six months he was employed in his brother's store; at the end of that time becoming connected with the *Hamburg Times*, which newspaper, after his marriage there in the summer of 1870, he leased and continued to operate the same until the close of 1871, when he moved to Falls City and on January 1, 1872, entered the office of the *Falls City Journal*. Mr. Davis remained connected with the *Journal* until 1875, in which year he became identified, in association with George P. Marvin, with the *Falls City Press*, an association that continued for eighteen weeks, at the end of which time they sold the paper to Col. G. B. Miles, but for a year thereafter continued to get the paper out for Colonel Miles. The paper then was sold to J. R. Reed, who conducted it until his death in 1879, Mr. Davis meanwhile retaining his connection with the paper, and in 1880 Mr. Davis bought the Reed interest and has ever since been actively identified with the paper, the name of which Mr. Reed had changed from the *Press* to the *News*, under which latter caption it ever since has been published, under Mr. Davis's capable direction, long having been recognized as one of the leading newspapers in eastern Nebraska. Mr. Davis is a Democrat and the editorial columns of his paper reflect his opinions on local political questions in a no uncertain manner, the veteran editor for many years having been regarded as one of the leaders of his party in the state of Nebraska. The *Falls City News* is a semi-weekly paper of wide circulation throughout the territory it covers and is a power for good in the community.

On June 27, 1870, Henry C. Davis was united in marriage, at Hamburg, Iowa, to Frances L. Dalby, who was born at Montezuma, that state, May 2, 1854, and who died at Falls City on November 20, 1910, leaving four children, namely: Charles C. Davis, postmaster of Falls City and part owner of the *News*; Clyde W. Davis, who is associated with his father in the publication of the *News*; Mrs. Bessie Lee Schmelzel, of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Mrs. Maude Hutchins, of St. Paul, Minnesota. Mrs. Davis was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church and was ever eager in good works. Mr. Davis is affiliated with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Improved Order of Red Men, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Royal Highlanders and some other fraternal associations and in the affairs of all takes a warm interest.



## GEORGE B. HOLT.

The late George B. Holt, who died at his home in Falls City on May 19, 1912, and who had, previous to his retirement from business in 1909, been one of the best-known merchants in that city, was a native son of Richardson county and had lived here all his life. He was born at the village of Salem on November 3, 1874, son of the Hon. John White Holt, a pioneer of this county, former president of the First National Bank of Falls City, former state senator, former county treasurer and for many years one of the leading citizens of Richardson county, further and fitting mention of whom is made in a memorial sketch presented elsewhere in this volume.

Upon completing the course in the high school at Falls City, George B. Holt supplemented his schooling by a course in the Nebraska State University at Lincoln and then engaged in the shoe business at Falls City, continuing thus engaged until he sold his store in 1909. Upon retiring from business he continued to make his home in Falls City and there died, as noted above, in the spring of 1912. He was a Republican, a member of the Methodist church and, fraternally, was affiliated with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, ever taking a warm interest in political, church and lodge affairs.

On July 20, 1897, George B. Holt was united in marriage to Grace Gossett, who was born in Falls City, daughter of William and Nancy (Mitchell) Gossett, the former of whom was born in Indiana in 1841 and the latter, in Tennessee, in 1852, and who are now living in Falls City, well-known pioneers of this county. William Gossett came to this county as a young man back in the late fifties and became engaged here as a building contractor, building some of the first houses in Falls City and vicinity. He married Nancy Mitchell, who had come here with her parents, who accompanied the family of "Uncle" Jesse Crook, in 1853, when she was little more than an infant, and had here grown to womanhood. To that union were born five children, namely: Myrtle, who married Frank Clegg, a son of Robert Clegg, a pioneer of Richardson county, and is now living at Kansas City; Grace, who after the death of Mr. Holt married, August 16, 1916, B. F. Streeter, of the local offices of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company; Frank, of Falls City; May, deceased, and Gertrude, of Kansas City.

To George B. and Grace (Gossett) Holt one child was born, a son, John W. Holt, born on June 12, 1899, who is a member of the class of 1918, Falls City high school.

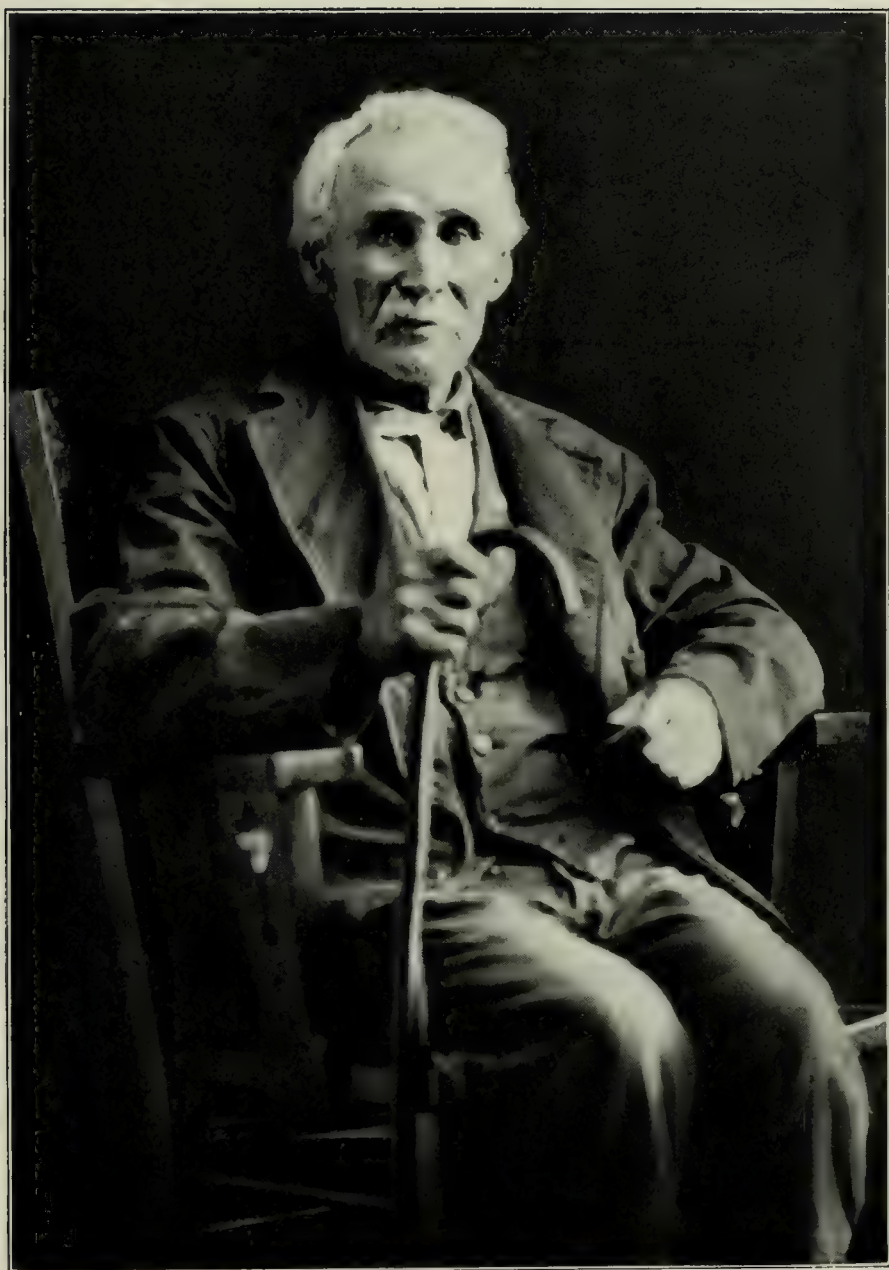
## JOHN B. DIDIER.

The oldest pioneer of Richardson county, if not the oldest in southeastern Nebraska, is John B. Didier, of Barada precinct, who came to this locality sixty-three years ago, when it was only a vast stretch of wild plains, inhabited by Indians and wild animals. He has lived to see and take part in many wonderful changes here and talks interestingly of the early days and customs.

Mr. Didier was born on December 25, 1827, in France. He is a son of Prof. John B. Didier, a man of learning and for many years a professor in the schools of France. He and his wife, Anna, grew to maturity in France, where they were married and made their home until 1848, when they immigrated to America, living the first year in Cincinnati, Ohio, and later in New Orleans, Louisiana, then returning to France, where they spent the rest of their lives.

John B. Didier grew to manhood in his native land and there received a good education. He crossed the Atlantic in a sailing vessel in 1847, located in the city of Cincinnati, where he clerked in a large store for a while. In 1849 he came to St. Louis, Missouri, carrying with him a letter of introduction to one of the leading merchants there, for whom he worked one year, when his employer, Choteau, sent him among the Indians of Missouri, with whom he traded for another year. In 1852 he was sent to take charge of a store on the North Platte, which store was established by P. Choteau, one of the best-known merchants of St. Louis in the early days. But later, on account of the Indian troubles, the post on the North Platte was closed. A battle took place nearby between United States soldiers and an immense band of Indians, but the soldiers were nearly all killed, as there were only forty-seven against three hundred Indians. All of Mr. Didier's assistants fled from the post, he alone remaining, notwithstanding the danger. He regarded it as his first duty to protect the property of his employer. Returning to St. Louis he reported the loss of the store, for which his company got damages in the sum of thirty-one thousand dollars from the government. After settling up with the company he left St. Louis, two months later, coming to St. Joseph on a steamboat, and from there came overland to Richardson county, September, 1854, where he took up a homestead of one hundred and twenty acres, in what is now section 3, Barada precinct. It was wild land, but he went to work with a will, cleared and broke up the sod and in due course of time had a well improved and productive place





JOHN B. DIDIER.





and a comfortable home. He endured the hardships and privations incident to life on the frontier, when neighbors were few and trading centers far remote. He has remained on this place continuously to the present time, perhaps as long as any man in the state has lived on one farm—sixty-three years. In fact, there is no doubt but that he was the second white settler in Richardson county.

Mr. Didier was married at Brownville, Nebraska, in 1855, by Judge Whitney, to Mary Pino, a daughter of Louis Pino, a French-Canadian, who was a post trader at Ft. Laramie, where his death occurred. The death of Mrs. Mary Didier occurred in 1908. She was the mother of eight children, named as follows: Henry lives in South Dakota; John lives in Jackson, Nebraska; Paul is deceased; Peter died in Kansas; Mrs. Mary Deroin lives in Kansas; Mrs. Cecilia Longkar lives in South Dakota; Mrs. Myrtle Last lives on the home farm, which her husband is operating, and they have two children, Albert and Harvey.

Mr. Didier, who is now in his ninetieth year, is still fairly hale and hearty, having lived an abstemious and upright life—one calculated to lead to longevity. He is widely known throughout the county and his record is that of a public-spirited, industrious and honorable citizen. Politically, he is a Democrat, but he has never sought public office or leadership. Religiously, he is a Catholic.

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### SAMUEL KIMMEL.

Samuel Kimmel, one of the real old settlers of Richardson county and a well-to-do retired farmer and stockman who has for many years past made his home in Falls City, where he and his wife are very comfortably situated, is a native of the old Keystone state and became a resident of the state of Illinois when about seventeen years of age, but has been a resident of this county since 1870 and has therefore been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days. During the days of grasshoppers, hot winds and panics in the seventies he had a mighty hard time of it keeping his belongings together here, but affairs presently took a turn for the better and he prospered largely, having been able to retire on a competency when he was fifty years of age.

The Kimmels are an old American family, having been represented on

this side of the water since the middle of the eighteenth century. Michael Kimmel, the progenitor of this branch of the Kimmels, was born in the ancient kingdom of Saxony in 1662. He had three sons, Jacob, Philip and Valentine, who spent all their days in their native land. Philip Kimmel, born in 1695, had six sons and two daughters. These six sons came to the American colonies about 1750 and established themselves on this side. One of these six sons, Jacob Kimmel, born in 1725, settled in Pennsylvania and there reared eight sons, Abraham, Jacob, John, Solomon, Ludwick, Otto, Michael and Jonathan, the latter of whom was born in his father's old age. This Jonathan Kimmel, born in Pennsylvania in 1798, married Susan Meyers and had six sons and two daughters, Michael, Josiah, John, Daniel, Noah, Jonathan, Mrs. Mary Walker and Mrs. Susan Gashorn. The first-born of these sons, Michael Kimmel, born in Pennsylvania in 1821, married Nancy Lichty and had six sons and two daughters, John, Samuel, Jonathan, William, Ephraim, Tobias, Marie, who died in infancy, and Elizabeth. The mother of these children died in 1862 and Michael Kimmel married his deceased wife's cousin, Sally Lichty, and to that union three children were born, one son and two daughters, David, Susan and Hattie. In 1865 Michael Kimmel left his old home in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and moved with his family to Illinois, where he settled on a farm and where he spent the remainder of his life.

Samuel Kimmel, second son of Michael and Nancy (Lichty) Kimmel, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, August 20, 1847, and was seventeen years of age when he moved with his father to Illinois, in 1865. There he married in 1869 and in that state he continued farming until in the fall of 1870, when he and his wife came to Nebraska and settled on a farm in the precinct of Ohio, six miles north of Falls City, in this county. For that farm, a quarter of a section of land, Mr. Kimmel contracted to pay twenty-five hundred dollars. One half of this sum he paid in cash and gave a mortgage on the land for the unpaid balance. He built a house on the place and proceeded to try to improve and develop the farm, but at the end of eleven years, with grasshoppers, drought and the panicky times of that period, he found himself worse off in a financial way than he was when he began his operations. He not only had been unable to pay the interest on his mortgage, the accrued interest thus having become more than the principal, but he was otherwise involved in debt and was unable to see any way out. He tried to give the farm back to the mortgagee, but the latter would not accept it and advised him to "stick to it." Thus unable to let go, Mr. Kimmel did "stick to it," and it was well he did so, for presently things began to turn



the other way and, beginning in 1882, prosperity overtook him and has ever since kept right alongside of him, he long ago having reaped the reward for the many "lean years" he suffered during the early days of his residence here. With a succession of bountiful crop years in the eighties Mr. Kimmel began to branch out in his operations, engaged heavily in the live-stock business and enlarged his land holdings until he became the owner of eight hundred acres of fine land in the vicinity of his original quarter section. He had long before determined to retire when he was fifty years of age and he found himself in the happy position of being able to do that very thing even before he had reached that point of life. He gave to each of his two children a fine farm and in 1896 he and his wife moved to Falls City, erected a beautiful house on Stone street and have ever since lived there, enjoying the ample rewards of their earlier years of toil and privation. Both are remarkably well preserved, mentally and physically, and find much joy and zest in living. They are great readers and keep up-to-date and abreast of the times. Mr. Kimmel still enjoys keeping a sort of a supervisory eye on the old home farm, which he frequently visits, and sometimes takes a hand in the work himself just to show that he hasn't forgotten how.

As noted above, it was on December 5, 1869, in Illinois, that Samuel Kimmel was united in marriage to Hattie Peck, who also was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, February 12, 1850, a daughter of Jonas and Frances (Saylor) Peck, who moved from Pennsylvania to Illinois in 1867 and in the latter state spent the remainder of their lives. To that union four children have been born, one son and three daughters, namely: Edwin M., born on July 31, 1875, who in 1895 married Amelia Ruegge and has three children, Gladys, Esther and Edwin S.; Eva Ada, November 14, 1873, who married H. J. Prichard and has two children, Allie and Wilbur; Vivian, who died in infancy, and Verne E., who also died in infancy. Edwin M. Kimmel and his sister, Mrs. Prichard, were given farms by their parents and have well-established homes in the precinct of Ohio, both Mr. Kimmel and Mr. Prichard doing well in their farming and live-stock operations. Samuel Kimmel was reared a Republican, but upon the organization of the Populist party espoused the cause of that party and was an active adherent of the same until the memorable campaign of 1896, when he became an ardent champion of William Jennings Bryan and has ever since remained a staunch Bryan Democrat. He and his wife are members of the Brethren church and take a proper interest in the affairs of the same, Mrs. Kimmel, particularly, being quite active in church work and in the other good works of the community at large.

## ALFRED STETTLER.

One of the enterprising farmers of Speiser precinct, Richardson county is Alfred Stettler, who was born on October 4, 1869, in Switzerland, and, like all our citizens who hail from that small but superb republic across the sea, he has proven to be a most desirable addition to Nebraska. He is a son of Gottlieb and Magdalena Stettler, who lived and died in Switzerland. They were honest, hard-working people.

Alfred Stettler spent his boyhood in his native land and there received an education in the common schools. When seventeen years of age he left Switzerland and started on the long journey to the interior of America. He arrived in Sabetha, Kansas, with but ten dollars in his pocket. He worked out as a farm hand for some time, earning only one hundred and twenty dollars a year, but he saved his wages and soon got a start as farmer, renting land for some time. Working hard and managing well, he finally had enough to pay for a farm of his own, and in 1907 bought the well-improved and productive farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Speiser precinct, where he still resides. He paid the sum of ninety dollars an acre on an average, paying eighty dollars an acre for eighty acres and one hundred dollars an acre for forty acres. He has added many excellent improvements on the same and has been successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. His modern eight-room house was built in 1912. It has a furnace and a lighting system. He also built a large new barn.

Mr. Stettler was married on December 18, 1901, to Henrietta Fankhauser, who was born on March 4, 1876, in Speiser precinct, Richardson county, where she grew to womanhood and attended the district schools. She is a daughter of John and Magdalina Fankhauser, both natives of Switzerland, but they grew up in the United States, where they were married. The John Fankhauser was five years old when he came to the New World in 1847. He is now seventy-four years old. Magdalina Fankhauser was three years old when her parents brought her to America. Her death occurred at the early age of thirty-three years. Three children have been born to Alfred Stettler and wife, namely: Laurretta Ella, born on August 27, 1903; Verna Lucia, May 4, 1906, and Norma Magdalene, August 6, 1915.

Politically, Mr. Stettler is a Democrat, but is inclined to vote independently. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Humboldt, also the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He belongs to the Reformed church.



## OTTO KOTOUĆ.

One of the most promising of the younger business men of Richardson county is Otto Kotouc, cashier of the Home State Bank at Humboldt. He was born in Humboldt, Nebraska, April 22, 1885, and here he has become well established in the industrial world at an age when most men are just getting fairly started on their careers. He is a son of Frank and Marie (Hon) Kotouc, both natives of Bohemia, the father born on October 25, 1839, and died on December 25, 1916; the mother was born on April 24, 1850, and her death occurred on September 13, 1913. They grew up in their native land, where they were married and made their home until 1882, when they immigrated to America, locating at Humboldt, Nebraska, where the father learned the trade of harness-maker. He had engaged in the grocery business in his native country. After coming to Humboldt he worked for his brother-in-law, John Klossner, who owned a large harness-making establishment there, being employed by him for a period of sixteen years; he then retired from active life. He was a member of the Bohemian Reformed church. His family consisted of four sons, namely: Frank, a merchant at Humboldt; Lute B., who also operated a store in Humboldt for a number of years, but is now in New Raymer, Colorado, conducting a store for the Kotouc Brothers; Milton is a member of the mercantile firm of Kotouc Brothers in Humboldt, and Otto, of this sketch, is the youngest.

Otto Kotouc grew to manhood in Humboldt and there attended the public and high schools, graduating from the latter with the class of 1903. He then entered the State University at Lincoln, where he pursued a literary course, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1908. In the fall of that year he was elected representative to the state Legislature from Richardson county, being the youngest man ever elected to this important office from this county and one of the youngest to serve in that body from any county since the state was organized. But the excellent record he made during the session of 1909 proved the wisdom of his selection; indeed, he gave such eminent satisfaction to his constituents that he was re-elected in the fall of 1910, and served with distinction during the session of 1911, doing much for the general good of his county and state. He served as chairman of the insurance committee, and was also a member of the ways and means committee and the judiciary committee.

Mr. Kotouc entered the banking field in 1909, in the State Bank of Humboldt, as assistant cashier, the duties of which position he discharged with

fidelity and promptness until 1915, when he helped organize the Home State Bank, of which he has since filled the position of cashier to the eminent satisfaction of the stockholders and patrons of the bank, the prestige of which sound and popular institution he has done much to increase. He also conducts an insurance business with Glenn D. Jenkins, under the firm name of Kotouc & Jenkins.

Mr. Kotouc was married on August 29, 1912, to Camille Cernik, who was born at Ord, Nebraska. She is a daughter of Joseph and Louise Cernik, both natives of Bohemia, from which country they came to America many years ago, locating at Ord, this state, where Mrs. Kotouc grew to womanhood and was given good educational advantages, and there her father engaged successfully in mercantile pursuits, but is now living retired there. To Mr. and Mrs. Kotouc two children have been born, Otto Kotouc, Jr., whose birth occurred on June 15, 1913, and Marie Louise, born on March 1, 1917.

Politically, Mr. Kotouc is a Democrat and one of the leaders of his party in southeastern Nebraska. Fraternally, he belongs to the Masonic order, and is now holding the office of postmaster in the blue lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a member of the Acacia Fraternity and Phi Beta Kappa of the State University. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### HIRAM E. EELLS, D. D. S.

Dr. Hiram E. Eells, of Falls City, one of the best-known and most successful dentists in this part of the state, is a native of the neighboring state of Iowa, but has been a resident of this state since leaving college, having begun his practice at Auburn, moving thence to Wayne and thence, in 1912, to Falls City, where he has since been engaged in the practice of his profession. He was born on a farm in Johnson county, Iowa, February 22, 1873, son of Nathaniel E. and Susan Harriet (Huss) Eells, natives of Ohio and both of old Colonial stock, the history of the Eells family in this country going back to the days of the Pilgrim Fathers, the first of the name to come over here having been Samuel Eells, who came from the north of England in 1628 and settled in Massachusetts Colony.

Nathaniel E. Eells, an honored veteran of the Civil War, as noted above, was a native of Ohio, born in 1839, and was but two years of age



when his parents, Nathaniel E. Eells and wife, emigrated to the then Territory of Iowa in 1841 and settled in Johnson county. There he grew to manhood and was living there when the Civil War broke out. In August, 1861, at Iowa City, he enlisted for service as a member of Company G, Twenty-second Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and with that regiment served for a period of nearly four years, or until it was mustered out in July, 1865, the war then being over. During this service he was seriously wounded at the battle of Winchester. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg and to his regiment was accorded the honor of being the first to enter the fallen city on that memorable Fourth of July in 1863, when the stubborn defense of that key to the South was broken. Upon the completion of his military service Nathaniel E. Eells returned to his home in Iowa and shortly afterward married Harriet Huss, who also was born in Ohio and whose parents had become Iowa pioneers. He established his home on a farm in Johnson county and there remained until in May, 1873, when he moved with his family to a farm in the neighborhood of Bedford, county seat of Taylor county, Iowa. There his wife died in 1897 and he thereafter made his home with his children until his death in 1910. There were five of these children, four sons and one daughter, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: The Rev. Melvin Hoyt Eells, a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal church, now living in Kansas; Dr. Linden Eells, a dentist, of Auburn, this state; John H. Eells, a farmer, of Nevis, Minnesota, and Effie, deceased.

Hiram E. Eells was reared on the home farm in Iowa, receiving his elementary schooling in the local district schools, also two years in a normal college, and for two years taught school during the winters, continuing to work on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when he entered the dental department of the University of Iowa and after a year there entered the College of Dental Surgery at Chicago, from which he was graduated on April 3, 1898. During his college career Doctor Eells spent his vacation selling books and thus provided the funds with which to complete his college course. Upon receiving his diploma the Doctor came to Nebraska and opened an office for the practice of his profession at Auburn, where he remained for five years. He then spent a summer otherwise engaged and then located at Wayne, where he was engaged in practice for five years, meanwhile spending two summers on vacation in Dakota. On January 1, 1912, he located at Falls City and has since been engaged in

practice in that city. The Doctor has a well-appointed office, equipped with all the modern appliances for dental surgery, and has built up a splendid practice. In 1916 he built a fine new home, between Nineteenth and Twentieth streets on Crook street, and there he and his family are very pleasantly situated.

On October 3, 1900, Dr. Hiram E. Eells was united in marriage to Stella Spurgin, of Barney, Madison county, Iowa, daughter of William Spurgin and wife, and to this union three children have been born, Lois E., born on September 14, 1902; Berkley E., July 7, 1907, and Nathan O., March 13, 1913, the latter of whom is the thirteenth living grandchild of the late Nathaniel E. Eells. Doctor and Mrs. Eells are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper part in church work, as well as in other local good works, and in the general social and cultural activities of their home town. The Doctor is a member of a number of fraternal orders and in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest. Politically, he is "independent" and gives his thoughtful attention to local governmental affairs.

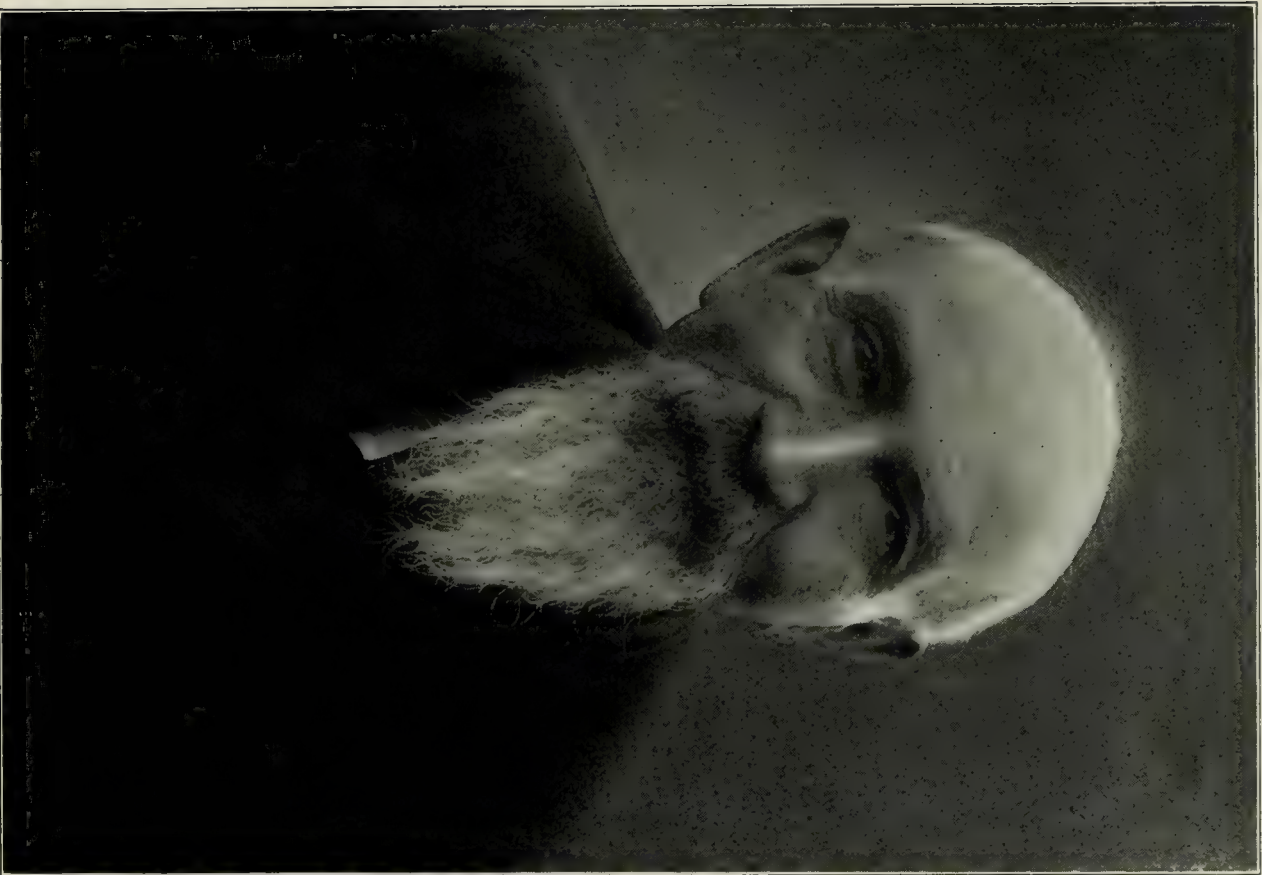
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#### EUGENE ALLEMEND.

Eugene Allemend, one of Richardson county's best-known and most substantial retired farmers, a resident of Stella since 1890, in which year he retired from the active labors of the farm, is a native of France, but has been a resident of this country since he was eighteen years of age and of Nebraska since 1864, thus being very properly recognized as one of the pioneers of this section. He was born on May 16, 1836, and was about eighteen years of age when his parents, Nicholas and Frances (Bernard) Allemend, also natives of France, left their native land with their children and came to this country in 1854, the family locating in Chicago, where the father died a few years later. The Widow Allemend and her children then, in 1859, moved to St. Louis and there she spent her last days. Nicholas Allemend and wife were the parents of four children, of whom two still survive, the subject of this sketch having a younger sister, Mrs. Lenora Jacko, a widow, now living at San Francisco, California. He had two elder brothers, Justin and Frank, now deceased.

As noted above, Eugene Allemend was but eighteen years of age when





MR. AND MRS. EUGENE ALLEMEND.





he came to this country with his parents and during the time he lived in Chicago he worked there as a cook. Upon his removal to St. Louis in 1859 he began working there and in December, 1863, was married in that city. The next summer, in August, 1864, he came to Nebraska and bought a small tract of land in Aspinwall precinct, Nemaha county, just northeast of Stella, and there established his home, settling down as a farmer. Though Mr. Allemend suffered a little privation and hardship during the early years of his pioneering here, as did most of the early settlers of this section, he kept pushing ahead and it was not long until he began to see his way clear to the development of a fine piece of property surrounding his home. In addition to his general farming he early began giving considerable attention to stock raising and as he prospered in his operations added to his holdings until he came to be regarded as one of the leading landowners in that part of the state. Mr. Allemend is now the owner of six hundred and forty acres in his old home tract, besides a nearby "eighty" in that part of the county and two hundred and twenty acres over the line in Nemaha county, all in Aspinwall precinct, and is accounted one of the most substantial citizens of Richardson county. For years he gave much attention to the raising of high-grade draft horses and also kept a trotting horse, "MacMahon," that became more than locally famous and that he kept until the animal's death at the age of thirty-three years. In 1890 Mr. Allemend retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to the village of Stella, from which place he since has directed his extensive farming interests. He built a fine residence there and he and his family are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Allemend has taken an active interest in the general development of the community in which he settled back in pioneer days and has done much to promote the advancement of that community along all proper lines. Politically, he is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

On December 28, 1863, at St. Louis, Eugene Allemend was united in marriage to Adale Deculle, also a native of France, born in the city of Paris, December 13, 1844, who left there with her parents in 1849 for the United States, the family settling in Illinois and later locating at St. Louis, where she was living at the time of her marriage to Mr. Allemend. To this union seven children have been born, namely: One, who died in infancy; Emil, deceased; Eugene, deceased; Mrs. Georgette Monnett, who lives over in Nemaha county; Mrs. Leona Timermann, of North Platte, this state; Frank, of Nemaha county, and Mrs. Grace Martin, wife of a merchant at Stella.

## JAMES FRANKLIN SHUBERT.

The Hon. James Franklin Shubert, of Shubert, banker, orchardist and land agent and former representative from this district to the Nebraska state Legislature, cashier of the Citizens Bank of Shubert, president of the Brownville State Bank of Brownville, a member of the board of directors of the Farmers State Bank of Stella and one of the leading fruit growers and most ardent orchardists in Nebraska, is a native son of Richardson county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm, the site of the present thriving village of Shubert, in the precinct of Barada, November 4, 1870, son of Henry W. and Mary (Griffin) Shubert, pioneers of this section of Nebraska, both now deceased and further and fitting mention of whom is made in a memorial sketch presented elsewhere in this volume, relating to the late Henry W. Shubert, after whom the village of Shubert was named and who was for years one of the most active and influential factors in the development of that part of the county.

Reared on the home farm at Shubert, James Franklin Shubert received his early schooling in the schools of that district and completed the same by a course in the high school at Auburn. From the days of his boyhood he was an active factor in the labors of developing and improving the home place, which his father developed into one of the finest estates in this part of Nebraska, and early began to give particular attention to the great orchard industry which his father had created there, the elder Shubert long ago having been recognized as the pioneer in that industry hereabout, he having established the first commercial apple orchard in Richardson county. It was along in the eighties that Henry W. Shubert started his initial orchard, a plant of about three hundred trees, and in the nineties began to develop the same on a large scale, the venture then being made commercially profitable, he by that time having about three hundred acres covered with bearing trees, the great orchard being tended scientifically and in accordance with the most approved methods of modern horticulture. Upon the retirement of his father from this business, J. F. Shubert assumed the direction of the same, having meantime become recognized as one of the most expert pomologists in the state, and has continued to develop and extend the orchards until he is now the owner of two hundred acres of bearing orchards in the vicinity of Shubert and is operating with others who plan to extend their operations by planting an additional thousand acres in apple trees. Mr. Shubert is now the largest individual orchardist



in Richardson county and has made of that industry a commercially profitable affair, annually shipping as many as four hundred carloads of apples, for which he receives the top of the market, Nebraska apples having gained great favor wherever introduced. Mr. Shubert is a member of the Central Nebraska Fruit Growers' Association, in the affairs of which he takes an active interest, and is also a stockholder in the Loess Land and Orchard Company, which was organized in 1914 for the purpose of buying lands for other purposes. In addition to these interests, besides his large banking interests, he is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred acres, to the cultivation of which he gives his personal oversight.

As noted above, Mr. Shubert's banking interests are represented in Brownville, Stella and Shubert, he being president of the Brownville State Bank, which he organized in 1914, with a capital stock of \$15,000, and a member of the board of directors of the Farmers State Bank of Stella, but it is to the affairs of the Citizens Bank of Shubert, which he was mainly instrumental in organizing and of which he is the cashier and office manager, that he gives his close personal attention. The Citizens Bank of Shubert, locally known as "The Bank of Good Service," was organized by J. F. Shubert, A. M. Shubert, H. E. Williams, E. C. Riggs and Robert Kutler, and was opened for business on January 2, 1908, in an old building which since has been torn down and supplanted by a handsome new bank building, with modern fixtures and all the latest appurtenances of an up-to-date banking office. A recent statement of this bank shows its capital to be \$10,000, surplus, \$5,000, and deposits, \$110,000. The present officers of the bank are as follows: President, H. E. Williams; vice-president, A. M. Shubert; cashier, J. F. Shubert, and assistant cashier, L. W. Shubert, with these officers and E. C. Riggs and Robert Kutler as the board of directors. In addition to carrying on a general banking business the bank also conducts a fire and life-insurance business and has a flourishing farm-loan department.

On March 12, 1896, James Franklin Shubert was united in marriage to Leona Athey, of Macon county, Illinois, a daughter of Milton Athey, who spent his last days in Shubert, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Nina M., born on December 12, 1896, who was graduated from the Shubert high school and later, in 1916, from the Falls City high school and is now a student in the Nebraska State Normal at Peru. The Shuberts have a very pleasant home at Shubert and take a proper interest in the general social and cultural activities of that place. Mr. Shubert is a Republican and has served, at one time or another, in nearly all the local

public offices, serving on the town board and on the school board, and in 1907 represented this district as a member of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly of Nebraska. He is a Royal Arch and York Rite Mason, a member of the local lodge at Shubert and of the chapter and commandery at Falls City, and is a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with Sesostris Temple at Lincoln, and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs. He also is a member of the local lodge of the Woodmen of the World.

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### J. ABNER HEWS.

A thrifty farmer of Franklin precinct, Richardson county, is J. Abner Hews, who was born September 2, 1872. He is a son of Sanborn S. Hews and wife, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Both parents are deceased, the mother dying when the subject of this sketch was a boy. J. Abner Hews spent his childhood on the home farm, a half mile east of Verdon, Richardson county. He attended the district schools, but his education was limited as he was compelled to go to work when only ten years of age, working three years for his board. When fourteen years he got his board and clothes. About this period his father remarried and he lived with the elder Hews until he became of legal age. Upon the death of his father he rented the James Gavitt farm and land of John Holman. He farmed with his brother in Nemaha county, from 1895 until 1904. He managed well during that period of nearly ten years and saved enough to purchase a place of his own, buying ninety acres of land in Franklin precinct, Richardson county, for which he paid seventy dollars per acre. In 1907 he sold out to H. G. Mehlin, receiving the sum of nine thousand six hundred dollars. He then purchased the farm he now owns, for which he paid the sum of one hundred and ten dollars per acre. His place consists of one hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, in section 23, Franklin precinct. He keeps it in fine tilth and under a high state of improvements; he has erected a new barn, fifty-eight by sixty feet, also has another good barn, but smaller. He is erecting an attractive new residence in the fall of 1917. He makes a specialty of raising Duroc-Jersey hogs, marketing about two hundred annually, also keeps a large number of Shropshire sheep and a good grade of cattle.

Mr. Hews was married on February 12, 1901, to Phoebe Legg, a native of Missouri, born there on December 12, 1876. She came with her parents



to Richardson county when young, the family locating in Humboldt. She is a daughter of Lewis Legg, who brought his family to this county in the eighties.

Politically, Mr. Hews is a Democrat and is an admirer of William J. Bryan and his doctrines. He has forged his way up from a very unpromising start and is therefore entitled to the easy circumstances in which he now finds himself while still in the prime of manhood. He takes an active interest in whatever makes for the general good of Franklin precinct and Richardson county.

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### JAMES HARVEY OVERMAN.

James Harvey Overman, well-known veteran hotel-keeper at Stella, this county, former postmaster of that village, formerly and for years engaged in the mercantile business there and since pioneer days one of the leading factors in the development of the town, is a native of the old Hoosier state, a fact of which he never has ceased to be proud, but has been a resident of this section of the country since the days of his early infancy, having come out to the neighboring state of Iowa with his parents in the spring of 1852, he then being but an infant in arms, and one year later, in 1853, came to Missouri. He was born in Clark county, Indiana, not far across the river from the city of Louisville, January 10, 1852, son of James L. and Mary (Dailey) Overman, both of whom were born in that same county, members of pioneer families in southern Indiana, and who later became pioneers of this region, their last days being spent at Stella.

The Overmans are of Dutch stock and the family has been represented in this country since Colonial days. James L. Overman's father, whose wife was an Amick, became early settlers in Clark county, Indiana, where James L. Overman was born on February 15, 1824. His father died about six years later and he early began working on his own account, learning the cooper's trade. On December 29, 1845, he married Mary Dailey, who also was born in Clark county, Indiana, May 16, 1819, member of a pioneer family in that section of the Hoosier state, and there made his home until 1852, when he came West and settled in Iowa, one year later settling in Missouri. In 1858 he moved over to St. Deroin, on the river, just at the southeast corner of Nemaha county, where he began operating a ferry, at the same time setting up a small cooperage establishment, and was living

there when the Civil War broke out. Previous to the formal declaration of war, however, in March, 1861, he had enlisted as a member of the local company of Home Guards, for service against the "bushwhackers," and was later transferred to Company D, Fifth Missouri Cavalry, with which command he served for sixteen months, that command doing effective service against the guerillas that caused so much trouble in Missouri and throughout this section. Later James L. Overman was engaged in the cooperage business at St. Joseph and at Amazonia, where he established a cooperage shop, but after awhile returned to St. Deroin and there remained until 1884, when he moved to Stella, this county, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there on December 28, 1894. His widow survived him nearly fifteen years, her death occurring at Stella on February 4, 1909. They were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being Kate, widow of Peter Fraker, of Stella; Andrew M., who enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War and whose fate thereafter was unknown to his family, and Arabella, of Stella, widow of J. M. McCollough.

As noted above, James H. Overman was but an infant when his parents came West and he was about six years of age when the family, on March 6, 1858, settled at St. Deroin, this state; the state at that time, however, being under a territorial form of government. He consequently has been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days and one of the recollections of his childhood is of the burial at St. Deroin of the old Indian chief, Joseph Deroin. He received his schooling in the primitive schools of his boyhood days and when seventeen years of age began clerking in his brother-in-law's store at St. Deroin. In July, 1871, Mr. Overman began clerking in a store at Severance, Kansas, and was there engaged in business until 1874. He then returned to St. Deroin and clerked in the store of A. J. Ritter until March, 1879. In 1877 he was appointed postmaster at St. Deroin under President Hayes, serving until 1879, having previously served as deputy postmaster. In 1879 he moved to Corning, Missouri, and was there engaged in business for about three years, at the end of which time he came to Stella. Soon after the townsite was laid out at Stella, this county, in February, 1882, he opened a store at that place, in June, 1882, and has ever since resided there, with the exception of ten months spent conducting a hotel at Humboldt. Mr. Overman was appointed postmaster of Stella on January, 1898, by President McKinley, and on April 27, 1904, was reappointed postmaster by President Roosevelt, and was reappointed by President Taft, serving until



October 1, 1916. His life has been practically devoted to merchandising and hotel-keeping and he now has a well-appointed and modern hotel of twenty-three rooms at Stella, one of the best-known and most popular hostelrys in this county. Mr. Overman's hotel at the corner of Main and Third streets is of brick, three stories in height and is equipped in accordance with modern demands for the greatest degree of comfort on the part of the traveling public. Mr. Overman is a stanch Republican and has for years been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in Richardson county.

On March 24, 1878, James H. Overman was united in marriage to Lucinda Marie Thomas, who was born in Putnam county, Missouri, daughter of Elijah P. and Samantha Ann (Hillis) Thomas, natives of Kentucky and Indiana, respectively, who became pioneers in Missouri. Elijah P. Thomas was born at Maysville, Kentucky, February 11, 1827, son of John and Margaret (Harmon) Thomas, the former of whom was born in Kentucky about 1795 and the latter in Champaign county, Ohio, not far from Urbana. John Thomas was the son of Solomon Thomas, a Virginian by birth and a soldier of the patriot army during the Revolutionary War, his father, Solomon Thomas, Sr., having been a Welshman who came to this country in Colonial days and settled in Virginia. John Thomas was a farmer and miller and served as a soldier during the War of 1812. He moved from Kentucky to Missouri and died in Scotland county, that state, at the age of eighty years. His wife died in Putnam county, that state, she also reaching a ripe old age. Elijah P. Thomas was married at Knoxville, Iowa, September 15, 1853, to Samantha Ann Hillis, who was born in Indiana on March 18, 1833, daughter of Dr. J. D. B. and Lucinda (Stearrett) Hillis. Dr. J. D. B. Hillis was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, January 10, 1810, and his wife was born in the vicinity of Urbana, Ohio, in 1813. Doctor Hillis served in the Civil War as surgeon in a Wisconsin regiment, and served as state senator in Iowa—a capable man.

Mr. and Mrs. Overman are members of the Church of Christ (Scientist) and take an earnest interest in the affairs of the same. They have no children of their own, but reared to womanhood a niece of Mrs. Overman, Mary Palmer, who was educated in the schools of Stella and who on September 22, 1895, married George W. Harris, who is now engaged in sheep raising at North Yakima, Washington. Mr. Overman is a member of the local lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and in the affairs of that organization takes a warm interest.

## JOACHIM H. EICKHOFF.

A well-known farmer and breeder of Duroc-Jersey swine, is Joachim H. Eickhoff, of near Falls City, Richardson county. Mr. Eickhoff was born on January 15, 1870, in Mecklenburg, Germany, and is a son of Joachim and Dora (Godeman) Eickhoff, natives of Germany, where they grew up, were married and established their home until they emigrated to America. Their family consisted of eight children, two of whom are deceased. Joachim Eickhoff was born in 1844 and died in 1912. He and his family remained in Germany until 1874, when they immigrated to America, locating in Richardson county, Nebraska, where the father worked out as a farm hand for a time, after which he rented land on the Baker farm. By his industry and hard work he succeeded in establishing a comfortable home in this county. He retired a few years prior to his death, locating in Falls City, where he spent his last days, living in comfortable retirement from the income of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres near Falls City. His widow, who still lives on the home place in Ohio precinct, was born in 1845.

Joachim H. Eickhoff, of this sketch, was nearly four years old when his parents brought him to Richardson county. Here he grew up on the home farm and assisted his father in the general work about the place. He received his education in the district schools. When twenty-five years old he rented land until 1901, when he bought a farm near Shubert, Nebraska, which he sold in 1908 and bought his present farm of two hundred and forty acres in section 4, of Falls City precinct, and he also owns land in section 9. He has made many important improvements on the place and is carrying on general farming and stock raising successfully. He devotes considerable attention to orcharding, his fine orchard now embracing forty-five acres, thirty acres of which he himself set out. He has a good variety of commercial apples and knows how best to prepare them for market, shipping them in car lots to Western markets. He is a scientific farmer, keeps well read in regard to all phases of modern methods, reading the latest government bulletins and the best farm journals. He has for years been a successful breeder of Duroc-Jersey hogs, holding private sales of his stock, for which he never fails to receive fancy prices, owing to their superior quality. In 1914 he bought a fine thoroughbred Belgian stallion, imported, for which he paid the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, when two years old. He has a pleasant home and surroundings, large and convenient barns and





JOACHIM H. EICKHOFF AND FAMILY.





outbuildings, everything about his place denoting thrift and good management as well as good taste. He has also been a feeder of cattle for many years for the markets.

Mr. Eickhoff was married, April 18, 1895, to Emma Eichsteadt, who was born on August 27, 1873, in Germany. She is a daughter of John and Sophia (Siemon) Eichsteadt, who came to the United States in 1884, locating in Richardson county, Nebraska, where they engaged successfully in general farming. Mr. Eichsteadt is now living in retirement in Falls City.

To Mr. and Mrs. Eickhoff eight children have been born, namely: Mrs. Minnie Ottobek, of Falls City precinct, Richardson county; Elmer lives at home; Laura, Frank, Clara, Joachim, Jr., Robert and Esther are also all at home.

Politically, Mr. Eickhoff is a Democrat but votes independently. He holds membership with the German Lutheran church. He is regarded as one of the progressive and useful citizens of his precinct, where his honesty and neighborly ways have made him a host of friends.

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### JOHN C. MULLEN.

John C. Mullen, city attorney and city clerk of Falls City, president of the Falls City Boosters' Club, chairman of the Democratic central committee of Richardson county, secretary of the local bar association and one of the best-known lawyers in this part of the state, is a native son of Nebraska and has lived in this state all his life. He was born at O'Neill, county seat of Holt county, July 3, 1886, son of James and Emily (Clancy) Mullen, natives of Kingston, Canada, of Irish descent, the former of whom was born in 1849 and the latter in 1851, who are still living, prominent and long-time residents of the city of O'Neill. They were married in Canada and then came to Nebraska, homesteading a farm in Holt county, in the immediate vicinity of O'Neill, in 1880, where they remained ten years, at the end of which time, in 1890, they moved to the neighboring village of Page and were there located until 1907, when they moved back to O'Neill and have since made that their place of residence. For many years James Mullen was actively engaged in the live stock business in Holt county and did very well. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There are nine of these children,

all of whom are living, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Arthur, who is engaged in the practice of law at Omaha; Robert, a lawyer at Alice, Texas; James, a ranchman at Cardwell, Montana; Mrs. John O'Donnell, of Norfolk, this state; Mary, a teacher in the normal school at Peru, this state; Helen, who is at home; Sister Mary Januaris, of the order of St. Dominica at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, and Sister Mary Roslyn, of that same retreat.

Upon completing the course in the public schools of his home town, John C. Mullen studied two years at Creighton University at Omaha and then for two years, 1906-07, taught school. He then entered the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and upon completing a course there in 1908 entered the law department of the university, from which he was graduated in 1912. In that same year he opened an office for the practice of his profession at Falls City and has ever since been thus engaged there, having established his home in that city after his marriage there in 1914. Mr. Mullen is an ardent Democrat and is now serving as chairman of the county central committee of that party. On April 18, 1916, he was appointed city attorney and on January 30, 1917, was appointed city clerk, in both of which important public capacities he is now serving. Since entering upon the practice of his profession at Falls City Mr. Mullen has done well there and is now the secretary of the local bar association, in the affairs of which he has taken an earnest interest ever since becoming a member of the same. He is regarded as one of the real "live wires" of his home town and is doing good work in behalf of the promotion of the interests of the city as the president of the celebrated Falls City Boosters' Club, ever active in promoting any proper movement looking to the advancement of the city's interest in a material way.

On May 13, 1914, John C. Mullen was united in marriage to Helen Majerus, who was born in Falls City, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Wilker) Majerus, the former of whom is now deceased, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Gerald, born on August 13, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Mullen are members of the Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general good works of their home town and in the general social and cultural activities of the same. Mr. Mullen is the present exalted ruler of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and is the financial secretary of the local council of the Knights of Columbus, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm and active interest.



## WILLIARD M. SHUBERT.

Williard M. Shubert, retired farmer now living in the village of Shubert, was born in Mason county, Illinois, January 17, 1851, a son of John and Rebecca (Shrout) Shubert, who came to Nebraska in 1877 and settled in this county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. John Shubert was born in Kentucky on September 4, 1807, and his wife was born in that same state on June 11, 1810. After their marriage they located on a farm in Mason county, Illinois, where they remained until 1877, when they came out to Nebraska and became pioneers in the northern part of this county, their last days being spent there, John Shubert dying on January 1, 1880, and his widow surviving until April 27, 1885. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom nine grew to maturity, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Mrs. Rachel Harmon, deceased; Mrs. Elizabeth Vallandingham, deceased; Henry W., on whose land the village of Shubert was laid out and a memorial sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Mrs. Mary Anne Vallandingham, deceased; Eliza Jane, deceased; James, deceased; John W., now a resident of Canada, and Mrs. Rebecca Anne Pond, of Shubert.

Reared on the home farm in Mason county, Illinois, Willard M. Shubert remained there until he was eighteen years of age, when he came to this state with C. A. Pond, arriving here on October 20, 1869. He became engaged at farm labor, helping to break and clear land, and after awhile rented a farm from his elder brother, James M. Shubert, and was thus engaged until the time of his marriage in 1883, when he bought a quarter of a section of improved land three and one-half miles northeast of Shubert, paying for the same forty-five dollars an acre, and there established his home, he and his wife remaining on that place for about fifteen years, or until their retirement from the farm on October 9, 1897, and removal to Shubert, where they have since made their home, owning there the handsomest residence in the town and one of the finest in the county. During his active farming Mr. Shubert farmed five hundred acres and did very well, gradually increasing his holdings by the purchase of an adjoining "eighty" and the purchase of a section of land over in the western part of the state. Since his retirement Mr. Shubert has sold all his land, in 1915, having received one hundred and fifty dollars an acre for his original quarter section that he bought for forty-five dollars an acre, and has invested his money in approved securities, including stock in the Citizens Bank of Shu-

bert and the State Bank of Stella. He and his wife are extensive travelers and are living in comfortable enjoyment of the rewards of their years of industry on the farm. They spend their winters in Florida or at Hot Springs and make frequent trips to the coast, enjoying life to the utmost. Mr. Shubert is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the local lodge of the Degree of Honor.

On April 16, 1883, Willard M. Shubert was united in marriage to Mary Ankrom, who was born in Blackford county, Indiana, April 16, 1863, and who was not yet three years of age when her parents, Rhinehart and Elizabeth (Bugh) Ankrom, left Indiana with their family and came to Nebraska, settling in this county in March, 1866. Rhinehart Ankrom was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, August 27, 1827, and his wife was born in February 4, 1832, in Perry county, Ohio. After their marriage on February 15, 1850, they settled on a farm in Blackford county, Indiana, and there remained until they came to Richardson county in the spring of 1866. Upon coming here Mr. Ankrom bought a tract of land in the half-breed country in the precinct of Barada, four and one-half miles east of the present town of Shubert, and there established his home, he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives there, her death occurring on January 17, 1912, and his on October 5 of that same year. Twelve years before they had celebrated their golden-wedding anniversary at their old home in Barada precinct, all their children and grandchildren in Nebraska being present, there being at that time eighteen grandchildren. Rhinehart Ankrom and his wife were the parents of eleven children, eight of whom grew to maturity, namely: William, who died on February 17, 1912; Robert, of Barada precinct; Barney, also a farmer in that same precinct; Jesse, also a Barada farmer; Mary, wife of Mr. Shubert; Mrs. Elizabeth Shafer, of Barada precinct; Mrs. Lydia Bucholz, of Falls City, and Mrs. Cloella Slagal, a widow, of Shubert.

Mrs. Shubert recalls vividly the privations which she and the members of the Ankrom family underwent during the early pioneer days. They had few luxuries; sorghum was used for sweetening instead of sugar; wheat bread was served on the table on Sundays and when company were present. The daughters of the Ankrom family learned to cut wood and work in the fields when necessary. They spun and wove their own wool for the garments worn by members of the large family and also made their own clothes. Mrs. Shubert could harness and drive a team as well as her brothers and made a good "hand" on occasion. When the family would



go visiting they would all crowd into a big wagon and go jolting across country via the nearest direct route to their destination and the "visit" would probably last over night, the family returning the next day. "Going to church" was an occasion and required the whole day to go and return home, the family taking along their lunches in baskets. The Ankrom boys would cut wood which they hauled to Falls City and traded for the winter's supply of shoes; hats, etc., were obtained in similar manner. Of spending money such as the youth of the present day is supplied with unstintedly, the children of this pioneer household had little or none. On holiday occasions such as the Fourth of July, if they had a "nickle" or twenty-cent piece to spend, it was deemed a great plenty.

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### REUBEN J. HILL.

The Hill family have been represented in Richardson county since that sturdy old pioneer, Elijah C. Hill, Sr., came to this part of Nebraska in 1865 and here laid the foundations of the future fortunes of himself and the members of his family, among whom is the subject of this sketch. In a biographical notice of Elijah C. Hill, Jr., in another part of this work, there is set out in detail an account of the father who came from Ontario, Canada, and settled on a homestead tract in this county, and to that account the reader is referred for further particulars in that connection.

Reuben J. Hill, the subject of this sketch, was born on July 10, 1860, in Ontario, Canada, and is the son of Elijah C. and Arcosh (Kallerstine) Hill, also natives of the same country. They were the parents of twelve children, six of whom are deceased, the others being Roland, who lives at Greeley, this state; Reuben J., of Porter township; Marshall N., a farmer and stockman, who lives in Porter precinct; Elijah C., Jr.; Mrs. Martha Van Vleet, of Crete, this state, and Grant, who lives in Cameron, Montana.

Reuben J. Hill was reared amidst pioneer conditions on his father's farm, which the latter settled on in 1865, when he came to this county. R. J. Hill was educated in the district schools of his home neighborhood and when still a boy, he learned the barber trade. In 1882 he opened a barber shop in Stella and in 1883 established another branch of the same business in Humboldt and continued to operate there for some years. In 1908 he settled in Porter precinct, where he is the owner of one hundred and thirty acres of prime farming land and also rents one hundred and ten acres

of land, making two hundred and forty in all. On this land he is actively engaged in general farming and has met with considerable success.

Mr. Hill was married in 1883 to Nora Belle Harper, who was born in Metcalfe county, Kentucky, the daughter of Wilson Harper and wife, also natives of Kentucky. To Mr. and Mrs. Hill two children have been born, namely: John M., who lives in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and who is an expert window dresser and show-card writer, and Mrs. Hulda Arcosh Williamson, who is the mother of two children, George Samuel and Lois. Mr. Hill is a supporter of the Republican party, but has never sought public office.

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### JOSEPH W. SPICKLER.

Joseph W. Spickler, of Shubert, former member of the board of county supervisors for Richardson county, a well-known and well-to-do farmer, owner of a fine farm of four hundred acres in the precinct of East Muddy, and formerly and for years extensively engaged in the live-stock business at Shubert, is a native of the neighboring state of Iowa, but has been a resident of this county since he was eleven years of age, having come here with his parents back in pioneer days. He was born at Davenport, Iowa, May 29, 1856, son of Samuel and Sabina (Selvert) Spickler, natives of Pennsylvania, who became pioneers in Iowa, later moved to Illinois and thence to Nebraska, settling in this county in 1867, spending the remainder of their lives here, the former dying less than ten years after coming here and the latter surviving for many years thereafter.

Samuel Spickler was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1812, and there grew to manhood. He married Sabina Selvert, who was born in that same county on January 28, 1818, and continued to make his home there until 1852, when he moved to Davenport, Iowa, later moving to Rock Island county, Illinois, where he remained until the fall of 1867, when he came to Nebraska with his family, arriving here on October 4 of that year, and settled on a farm one and one-half miles south of the present village of Barada, the nearest trading point at that time having been St. Deroin. When the Spicklers settled on that pioneer farm there was but one house between their place and Falls City and that was the old Ralph Anderson place. Previous to bringing his family out here Samuel Spickler and two of his sons had created "bachelor quarters" on the place and had a house and some other improvements in readiness before returning to Illinois for the



rest of the family. They drove across country in a covered wagon and crossed the river at Brownville. The first crop raised on the place consisted of three acres of corn, one acre of potatoes and one acre of cabbage. The potatoes sold for one dollar and twenty-five cents a bushel and the cabbage at ten cents a head. Samuel Spickler was a good farmer and an earnest pioneer citizen. He helped to organize the local congregation of the Church of God at Barada and he and his wife did much toward the early success of that church. He was a Republican and took a proper part in the early civic activities of the community during pioneer days. Samuel Spickler died at his home in the vicinity of Barada in 1875, less than ten years after settling in this county, and his widow survived him many years, her death occurring on November 16, 1907, she then being past eighty-nine years of age. They were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the seventh in order of birth, the others being as follow: Charles, deceased; Elizabeth, wife of Theodore Harris, of Rosalie, this state; Mrs. Sarah Dilenbeck, of Geneseo, Illinois; Mary E., who married A. Franklin and is now deceased; Ann Martha, who married M. Davis and is now deceased; John S., of Ft. Calhoun, this state; Mrs. Alice Allen, of Rosalie, and one who died in infancy.

As noted above, Joseph W. Spickler was eleven years of age when he came to this county with his parents and he grew to manhood on the home farm in the vicinity of Barada, remaining there until he was twenty-one years of age, when, in 1877, he rented a tract of land and began farming on his own account, remaining thus engaged until 1882, in which year he bought a farm one mile south of Barada, in section 12, and there built a house and barn and set out a grove of cottonwoods and an orchard, and after his marriage in the summer of the year following established his home there and continued farming that place for nine years, completing his payments on the same in six years. In 1891 he sold that farm and moved to Shubert, where for four years he was engaged in the live-stock business. In the meantime, in 1892, Mr. Spickler had bought a tract of land in western Nebraska, but later traded the same for a part of the fine farm of four hundred acres in sections 1 and 12 of the precinct of East Muddy, which he now owns, and which he operates from his home in Shubert. Mr. Spickler is a Republican and in 1891 was elected a member of the board of county supervisors from his district. He later was elected to the same office and served a second term, 1901-02, ever giving his thoughtful attention to the consideration of public affairs.

On July 30, 1883, Joseph W. Spickler was united in marriage to

Henrietta Gaston, who was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, November 11, 1861, daughter of Merriman and Mary (Wheaton) Gaston, natives of Indiana and of Pennsylvania, respectively, who later moved to Iowa and thence to Missouri, where the former died, the latter some time later moving to Rapid City, South Dakota, where her last days were spent. To this union three children have been born, Effie, who is at home with her parents; Beulah, who married T. Hill, a Shubert druggist, and Joseph Creath Spickler, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Spickler are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and have ever taken a proper part in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of their home town and of the community at large, and have been helpful in many ways in promoting movements designed to advance the common welfare thereabout.

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#### DANIEL D. LEWIS.

Daniel D. Lewis, farmer of Barada precinct, Richardson county, was born on March 8, 1871, in Nemaha county, Nebraska. He is a son of John M. and Margaret (Hopkins) Lewis. The father was born in Wales, December 25, 1816, and died August 27, 1904. The mother was born on August 15, 1831, and died September 25, 1915, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. These parents were married in Ohio and they came to Nebraska in 1866, settling in Nemaha county, where they engaged in farming until late in life when they retired from active work and moved to the town of Shubert, where they died. They were parents of the following children: David lives in Nemaha county; John lives in Kansas; Mrs. Anna McGeachie lives in Oklahoma; Joseph lives near Verdon, Richardson county; Thomas lives in Kearney, Nebraska; Margaret and Louis live in Peru, Nebraska; Daniel D., of this sketch, and Nellie, deceased.

The gentleman whose name forms the caption of this sketch was reared on the home farm in Nemaha county and there he attended the district schools. He began life for himself in 1893, and farmed on his own account, but on the home farm for two years; then engaged in mercantile pursuits at Shubert for one year, and then moved to his present farm of two hundred acres in Barada precinct, Richardson county. He has made many improvements and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He has sixty acres of timber. His home is in the midst of attractive sur-





DANIEL D. LEWIS AND FAMILY.





roundings, being almost in the center of a quarter section. He also has an excellent young orchard. He raises a good grade of live stock for the market.

Mr. Lewis was married on February 21, 1894, to Effie Lundy, who was born April 8, 1875, in Barada precinct, this county, and here she grew to womanhood and attended the common schools. She is a daughter of Ebenezer Lundy and wife, mentioned in the sketch of J. W. Lundy, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lewis eight children have been born, namely; Guy Sutton, born on February 20, 1896, is at home; Dewey Ebenezer, July 14, 1898; Daniel D., October 6, 1900; Effie Marie, October 18, 1904; John Samuel, April 28, 1909; Opal, October 19, 1911; Lela May, May 29, 1914, and Nola Belle, October 25, 1916. Guy Sutton and Dewey E. Lewis are members of Company E, Sixth Nebraska Infantry Regiment, enlisted for service in the great war. This company was organized in Richardson county.

Politically, Mr. Lewis is a Republican. He served as township clerk in Barada township for two years. He is a member of the Woodmen of the World and the Christian church.

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### EMERY E. BOLEJACK.

Emery E. Bolejack, cashier of the Barada State Bank of Barada and the proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred acres in section 14 of the precinct of Barada, this county, was born in that precinct and has lived in this county all his life with the exception of some years spent as a telegraph operator in the service of the Burlington railroad and later as a rancher in Blaine county. He was born on February 23, 1870, son of James A. and Lucinda (Barker) Bolejack, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Missouri, who became pioneers of Richardson county and the latter of whom is still living, now a resident of Shubert.

The Bolejacks are an old family in America and have been represented in the Carolinas since Colonial days, the first of the name in this country having been a Frenchman of the name of Bolejacque, who settled in North Carolina and there established his family, the family name later being Anglicized to its present form. James A. Bolejack was born at Moravian Falls,

in Wilkes county, North Carolina, July 19, 1832, son of William Bolejack and wife, the latter of whom was a Doss, natives of that same state, who were the parents of ten children, of whom James A. was the third in order of birth. In 1852 William Bolejack came West with his family and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Lexington, Missouri, where he died in 1858. He was born in 1798. His widow, who also was born in 1798, survived him about two years, her death occurring in 1860. James A. Bolejack was about twenty years of age when he came West with his parents in 1852 and he helped develop the home farm in Missouri and during the years 1856 and 1857 was engaged as a freighter on the old trail between St. Joseph and Sante Fe. In 1856 he married and in 1862 came over into the then Territory of Nebraska with his family and settled on a farm in the precinct of Barada, this county, where he made his home for forty years, or until his retirement and removal to Shubert, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there on August 4, 1902. For years during the earlier period of his residence in this county he maintained a blacksmith's forge on his place and did much accommodation work for his neighbors in that line, the work of the farm largely being carried on by his sons. He and his wife were among the organizers of the Christian church in Barada precinct and in the village of Shubert and he was an elder of the church. His widow, who still survives him, now a resident of Shubert, was born Lucinda Barker, on a pioneer farm in Lafayette county, Missouri, December 14, 1832, a daughter of William and Mary (Barker) Barker, natives of Kentucky, the former born in 1804 and the latter in 1805, who were married in that state and then moved to Missouri, where they established their home and where they spent the remainder of their lives, William Barker dying in 1878 and his widow surviving until 1890. They were the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Bolejack was the fourth in order of birth. To James A. and Lucinda (Barker) Bolejack five children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being William H., deceased; Mary, deceased; Mrs. Belle Harper, of Shubert, and Lee Bolejack, a well-known farmer living in the precinct of Barada, near Shubert.

Emery E. Bolejack was reared on the home farm in the precinct of Barada, receiving his schooling in the schools of district No. 4, and when twenty-one years of age went to Nemaha City, where he learned the art of telegraphy. In 1892 he was placed in charge of the station at Hemmingford, in the employ of the Burlington railroad, and remained as telegrapher there



until in September, 1893, when he was made agent for the same company at Dunning and while thus engaged there became the owner of a ranch of four hundred and eighty acres in that vicinity, in Blaine county, and engaged extensively in the raising of cattle, having as many as two hundred and fifty head of cattle on his ranch. In 1903 Mr. Bolejack resigned his position as agent for the railway company at Dunning, sold his ranch and returned to Richardson county, shortly afterward entering the Verdon State Bank at Verdon, as assistant cashier. In May, 1906, meanwhile having acquired an excellent working knowledge of the banking business, he left Verdon and moved to Barada, where he organized the Barada State Bank, was made cashier of the same, built the building in which the bank is now located and has ever since been cashier of the bank, one of the best-known bankers in Richardson county. The Barada State Bank, of which John Moorehead is the president, has but ten stockholders, was organized with a capital of \$6,500 and now has a surplus of \$3,000. In addition to his banking interests Mr. Bolejack is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in section 14 of the precinct of Barada and gives his personal attention to the management of the same. He gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock on the place and has an excellent farm plant there, all the operations of the farm being carried on in accordance with up-to-date methods. Mr. Bolejack is a Republican and has ever given earnest attention to local civic affairs. During his residence at Verdon he served as treasurer of the precinct and since taking up his residence at Barada has served as a member of the local school board.

On July 17, 1893, Emery E. Bolejack was united in marriage to Ella Murphy, who was born at Marysville, Kansas, December 13, 1871, a daughter of Thomas T. and Nellie (Quinn) Murphy, natives of the Dominion of Canada, who after their marriage located in Kansas, but later came up into Richardson county, where their daughter, Ella, was reared. Mr. and Mrs. Bolejack have seven children, Harold, Raymond, Dale, Marvin, Ralph, Pearl and John. Dale Bolejack, the third son, is now a student at St. Benedict's College at Atchison, Kansas, where he is studying with a view to entering the priesthood of the Catholic church. The Bolejacks are members of the Catholic church and take a proper part in parish affairs. Mr. Bolejack is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus and of the local lodge of the Woodmen of the World and in the affairs of both of these organizations takes a warm interest.

## LENA DEWEESE.

Miss Lena Deweese, owner of one of the model small farms in the precinct of Grant, this county, and one of the progressive leaders of the social activities of that community, was born in Prairie City, Iowa, daughter of the Hon. Joel W. and Rebecca (Ryan) Deweese, who later became residents of Lincoln, the capital of this state, where their last days were spent.

The Hon. Joel W. Deweese, an honored veteran of the Civil War, a former member of the Iowa state Legislature and for years one of the best-known and most influential lawyers at Lincoln, in which city he died in 1907, was a native of the state of Illinois, born on a farm there on September 17, 1843, son of James M. and Anna (Wyne) Deweese, natives of Kentucky, who moved from Illinois to Iowa in March, 1844, becoming pioneers in the latter state, where they maintained their residence until 1863, in which year they came over into the then Territory of Nebraska and settled on a farm a mile west of the present site of the town of Dawson, becoming useful and influential pioneers of that community. On that pioneer farm James M. Deweese made his home until late in life, when he retired and moved to Humboldt, where he spent his last days in comfortable retirement, his death occurring there in 1896. This branch of the Deweese family is one of the oldest families in America and is descended from a Deweese of Huguenot stock who came to this side from Holland in 1689, locating in New York and going thence, in 1690, over into Pennsylvania, where he established his home. He had three sons, two of whom remained in Pennsylvania, the other settling in Virginia. From this Virginia branch the Deweeses in this county are descended, members of that family having made their way from Virginia into Kentucky following the Revolutionary period, and in Kentucky James M. Deweese was born.

Joel W. Deweese was but an infant, about six months of age, when his parents moved from Illinois to Iowa and he grew to manhood on a farm in Marion county, that state, receiving his early schooling in the schools at Pella, the neighboring village, and was living there when the Civil War broke out. On August 15, 1862, he then being under nineteen years of age, he enlisted for service as a member of Company G, Twenty-third Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered in as a corporal in that command on August 22 following. On December 19, 1862, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and continued to serve with that command until the close of the war, being mustered out at Harrisburg.



Texas, July 26, 1865. During this period of military activity, Mr. Deweese participated in the siege of Vicksburg and went thence down the Mississippi to New Orleans, thence to Berwick, Louisiana, thence into Texas; then on with the Red River expedition, later taking part in the battle of Spanish Fort and in the capture of Mobile, besides taking part in numerous other engagements and skirmishes.

Upon the completion of his military service, Joel W. Deweese returned home and after finishing his work in the Iowa College, entered the Law College at Iowa City and was in due time graduated from the same. After his marriage in 1869 to Rebecca Ryan, a sister of Judge Robert Ryan, of Iowa, also a veteran of the Civil War, he established his home at Prairie City, Iowa, where he was engaged in the practice of his profession until 1879, when he came to this state and located at Lincoln, engaging in practice in that city as a member of the law firm of Marquette, Deweese & Hall, attorneys for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, and upon the death of Mr. Marquette became head of the firm. Mr. Hall presently withdrew to engage in private practice and Mr. Deweese then associated with himself in practice Frank Elmer Bishop. In the meantime Fred Deweese, Mr. Deweese's younger son, had been completing his law studies and upon being admitted to practice became associated with his father in the Lincoln office. During Joel W. Deweese's residence in Iowa he had served one term as a member of the Iowa state Legislature and upon coming to this state also took an interested part in political affairs, though never again a seeker after public office. He occupied a high place at the bar of this state and spent his last days in practice at Lincoln, his death occurring there on September 2, 1907. His widow, who was born in the state of New York on December 16, 1846, survived him less than two years, her death occurring on March 19, 1909. They were the parents of four children, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Wilford Deweese, of Stamford, this state, and Fred Deweese, a well-known landowner of Grant precinct, this county, and a sister, Mrs. Julia Lundin, of Seattle, Washington.

During the time he was engaged in the practice of law in association with his father at Lincoln, Fred Deweese suffered a mild physical breakdown and believing the free, open-air life of the farm would prove beneficial to his health came down into Richardson county, where his grandfather had lived in pioneer days, and he and his brother and their sister Lena bought a tract of land in the Dawson neighborhood, in the precinct of Grant. In

1910, the year after the death of her mother, Miss Lena Deweese closed her home in Lincoln and joined her brothers in this county. She straightway fell in love with the life of the farm and decided to remain here permanently and to that end made her arrangements accordingly. She is the owner of a fine farm of eighty acres in the precinct of Grant and has done much to beautify and improve the place. Not long ago she caused to be erected there a new seven-room house of modern construction and is very pleasantly and comfortably situated. Miss Deweese completed her schooling in Illinois College at Jacksonville, Illinois, and at the Nebraska State University and has traveled extensively. During her college days she was an active member of the Delta Gamma Sorority and continues to retain an earnest interest in the affairs of that organization of college women. She is a member of the Christian church and a member of the local Kensington Club, and takes a warm interest in church and club work and in the general religious, social and cultural activities of the community in which she lives, helpful in many ways in promoting such agencies as are designed to advance the common welfare thereabout.

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#### NAPOLEON DeMERS.

The business of fruit growing is both a profitable and pleasant one to those who like the outdoors and are willing to be vigilant and persevering. One of the best-known horticulturists of Richardson county is Napoleon DeMers of near Falls City. He was born in Quebec, Canada, October 28, 1860, and is a son of Frank and Edwidge (Lavigne) DeMers. The father was a native of Canada, where he grew up and was married, removing to Fall River, Massachusetts, about 1872. He was a baker by trade and there conducted a large bakery, keeping five or six delivery wagons. He returned to Canada about 1878 for the purpose of schooling his children. He later came to Jefferson county, South Dakota, where his death occurred about 1903, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. His wife also was a native of Canada; her death occurring in Minneapolis, Minnesota, about 1908, at the age of sixty-six. Twelve children were born to Frank DeMers and wife, nine of whom grew to maturity, and five of them are living at this writing, namely: Philip, a homesteader in Montana; Misael, who lives in Canada; Raphael, in North Dakota; Mrs. Virginia Garon, in Big Lake, Minnesota, and Napoleon, of this sketch.



Napoleon DeMers received his education in the parochial schools and the Brotherhood College, with his brother, Raphael. He learned the barber's trade at St. Hyacinthe, Canada, where he worked two years, then went to Richmond, Canada, where he assisted his father in his bakery for three years. His parents then moved to Sioux City, Iowa, where he worked at the barber trade awhile, later owned a shop at Elk Point, South Dakota, but returned to Sioux City, Iowa, in 1876, where he remained until 1880, when he sold his shop there and came to Falls City, Nebraska, and started a barber shop, which he conducted with his usual success until 1908, when he turned his attention exclusively to his farm, to which he had moved in 1904, but had continued operating his shop. He owns thirty-three acres in Falls City precinct, eight acres being in orchard and the balance in alfalfa and general farm crops. He also keeps a large number of hives of bees. He set out all his trees and has a fine assortment, his excellent apples finding a very ready market owing to their superior quality. He also deals in poultry, specializing in the Rhode Island Red single-comb chickens and he has built up quite a demand for them. He has made many important improvements on his place, costing in all about five thousand dollars. Nothing but cornstalks could be seen on the land when he purchased it in 1900. He has a comfortable modern home and numerous convenient outbuildings. He has been a diligent student of government bulletins and of the best books by experts on orcharding, poultry raising and bee culture and has therefore become well informed in all these lines, making a pronounced success of each.

Mr. DeMers was married on April 28, 1886, to Emma Downs, who was born January 17, 1860, at Glenwood, Iowa. She is a daughter of Benjamin S. and Catherine (Goben) Downs, natives of Virginia, where they spent their earlier years. After living in Iowa for some time they came to Richardson county, Nebraska, in the early days and here became very comfortably established through their industry. Benjamin S. Downs was born in 1818, was reared on a farm in Virginia, went, when a young man, to Ohio, where he was married, at the town of Mt. Vernon. He subsequently brought his family to Mills county, Iowa, where he engaged in the milling business. In 1871 he moved to Falls City, Nebraska, and leased the Falls mills, which are no longer in operation. He continued in the flour-milling business until his death, which occurred in 1877. His wife was born in the Old Dominion in 1829 and her death occurred in 1913.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon DeMers, named as follows: Grace, who was graduated from the State Normal at Peru.

Nebraska, after which she taught school for some time in Humboldt, Richardson county, and later in Fresno, California; she is now the wife of H. C. James and they live in Modesto, California; Edith, the second child, was graduated from Falls City high school and the Peru State Normal, later teaching school for some time in Falls City and Richardson county, but is now living at home; Mary, third child in order of birth, was graduated from the Falls City high school after which she followed teaching until her marriage to Guy Stump, a farmer of near Falls City. Ruth, youngest of the family, also received a good education and is now engaged in teaching in district school No. 81.

Politically, Mr. DeMers is a Republican. He has long taken an active interest in public affairs, and while living in Falls City was a member of the city council. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Royal Highlanders, being a charter member of the last named lodge in Falls City. He holds membership in the Catholic church, in the faith of which he was reared.

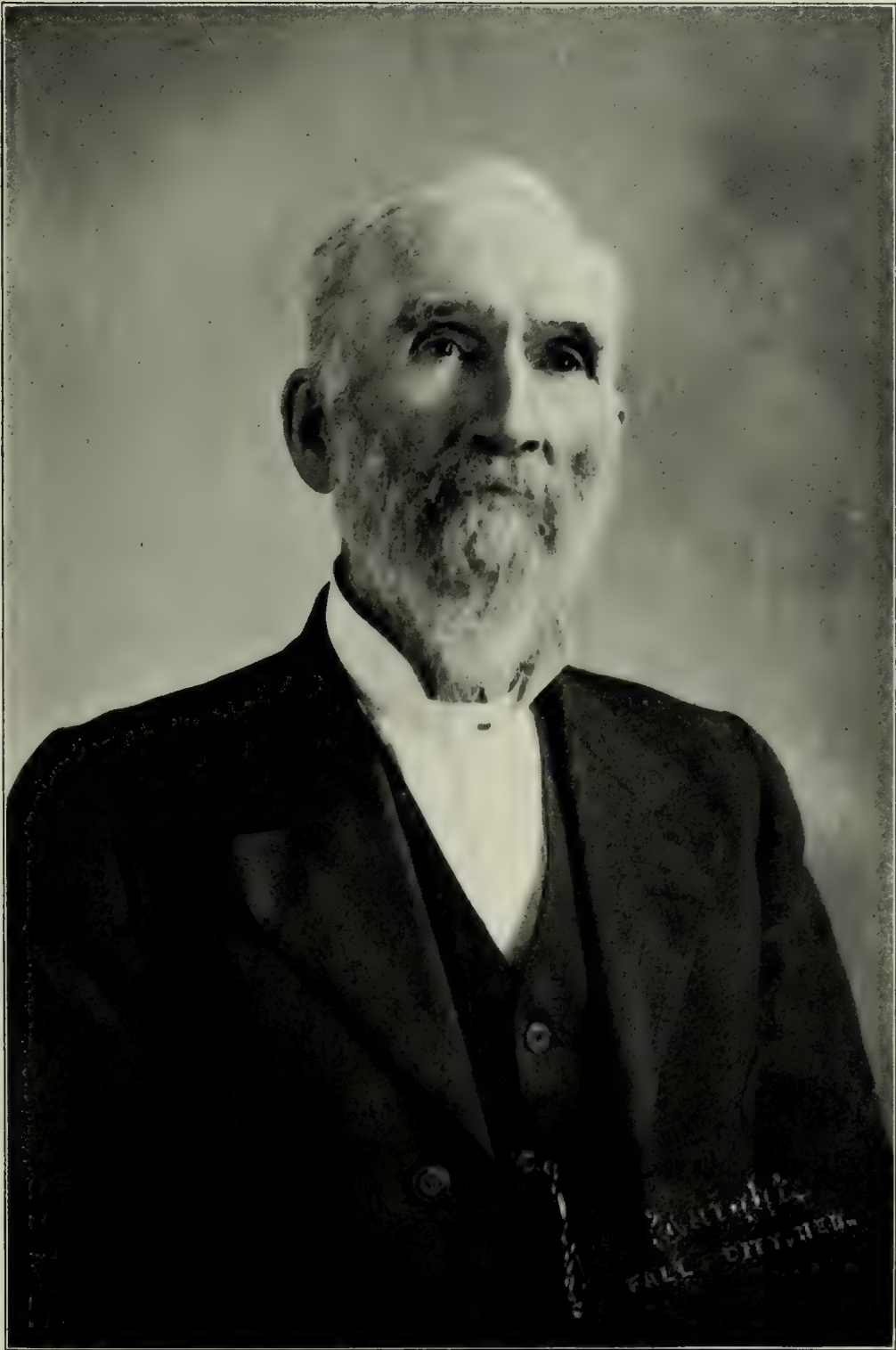
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### BARNEY MULLEN.

Barney Mullen, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of the northern part of Richardson county, an honored veteran of the Civil War and one of the real pioneers of this county, is a native of the old Buckeye state, born in the vicinity of Urbana, in Champaign county, Ohio, December 22, 1836, a son of John and Sarah L. Mullen, natives of Pennsylvania, and the parents of three children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, and the only present survivor, the others having been James, who died in California, and Mrs. Maggie Higgins, also deceased.

Bereft of his parents by death in his early childhood, Barney Mullen was taken in charge by a neighbor, Mr. Jones, and at the early age of ten years practically began to take care of himself, working on a farm. He received a common-school education in Ohio and in 1856, when about twenty years of age, went to Illinois, where he began working on a farm for a farmer of the name of Beggs, in the immediate vicinity of Ashland, in Cass county, that state. In 1860, while working there, Mr. Mullen purchased from Billy Goodpasture, who had been out here in the then Territory of Nebraska, the pre-emption right to a quarter of a section of land in Porter





BARNEY MULLEN.





precinct, this county, and he came out here and entered upon possession of the same. A log cabin had been erected on the place, the farm being about six miles west of the present village of Stella, and he established his quarters there and started in to break the land and improve his place, farming with a team of oxen. When the Civil War broke out Mr. Mullen returned to Illinois and at Virginia, in Cass county, that state, enlisted on September 3, 1861, as a private in Company C, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, and with that command served until some time after the close of the war, receiving his discharge at Nashville, Tennessee, December 16, 1865. During this period of service Mr. Mullen was a participant in some of the most strenuous engagements of the war, including the battle of Nashville, the siege of Ft. Hudson, at the mouth of the Red river, and was a participant in the expedition from LaGrange, Tennessee, to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and in numerous other engagements and skirmishes, the Sixth Illinois Cavalry ever giving a good account of itself.

Upon the completion of his military service Barney Mullen returned to his farm in this county and resumed here the pursuits of peace, presently getting his place under cultivation and in such a state of general improvement that he considered it fitting to ask some one to share the place with him and in December, 1868, he was married and established his permanent home. It was not long until Mr. Mullen found himself prospering and as he prospered he added to his holdings until now he is the owner of ten hundred and eighty acres of excellent land including a half section over in the neighboring county of Pawnee. From the very beginning of his operations here Mr. Mullen gave considerable attention to the raising of cattle and hogs and has for many years done a large business in live stock. As a contrast between conditions in the early days of his stock raising and those that obtain today, he recalls that in his early days out here on the plains he sold corn for ten cents a bushel and hogs for three dollars a hundred at the then nearest market, Brownville, and thought he was getting a fair price for his products. On April 11, 1917, he sold a carload of hogs on the St. Joseph market for sixteen dollars and ten cents a hundred. Mr. Mullen is a Republican and has served his community in a public capacity as a school director and in other minor local offices. He is a Mason of more than forty years standing, having been a charter member of the local lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Humboldt, and is a charter member of the Nebraska Masonic Veterans' Association at Omaha. He helped to organize the old Farmers and Merchants Bank of Humboldt and was a

member of the board of directors of the same until it ceased to do business.

On December 8, 1868, Barney Mullen was united in marriage to Susan M. Hays, who was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, September 2, 1847, and who was but ten years of age when her parents, George L. and Julia (Ambrose) Hays, also natives of Pennsylvania, came to the then Territory of Nebraska from Taylor county, Iowa, and settled on a pioneer farm one mile south of the present village of Stella, among the very earliest settlers of the northern part of Richardson county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, earnest pioneers and useful and influential residents of that section. To Mr. and Mrs. Mullen three children have been born, James L., who is now engaged in the lumber business at Shreveport, Louisiana; Frank, deceased, and Benjamin G., who is looking after the management of the old home place.

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#### AUSTIN GRANT SHUBERT.

Austin Grant Shubert, a well-known dealer in real estate, insurance and farm loans and the owner of a fine stock farm northeast of that city, is a native son of Nebraska and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm just over the line in Nemaha county, in the immediate vicinity of the present village of Shubert, April 12, 1879, and last-born of the seven living children of Henry W. and Mary E. (Griffin) Shubert, pioneers of that section and further and fitting mention of whom is made in a memorial sketch relating to the late Henry W. Shubert, presented elsewhere in this volume, wherein is set out at some length something of the genealogy of the Shuberts and of the history of that prominent pioneer family in this part of Nebraska. Henry W. Shubert, a Kentuckian, came to Nebraska from Illinois in 1865 and settled in the neighborhood of what is now the thriving village of Shubert, that village having been established on his land when the railroad was built through that section. He became an extensive landowner in that section and as a member of the Lincoln Land Company took a prominent part in the early development of this part of the state.

Reared at Shubert, Austin G. Shubert grew to manhood well trained in the difficult vocation of farming, fruit growing and stock raising and to the latter phase of farming gave his close attention from the days of his youth. Austin Grant Shubert was deprived of a complete education on account of poor eyesight when a boy. At the age of fifteen years he accompanied his



father on several extensive tours of the United States, the experience of which he treasures to this day. Among these is six months spent in the Southern states, mostly in southern Arkansas; also one year spent in California. These travels were made at the age when he, to use his own expression, was full of "pep". He had a great many experiences which at that time were amusing, but in later years found to be useful in his dealings with the world at large. A practical knowledge taught by experience gained by working at odd jobs in all classes of employment and business, has been of great assistance to him in his negotiations with different classes. He returned with his father to Nemaha, Nebraska, about 1895 and being the eldest of two boys, he was then the main assistance to his father in developing the fruit business. He was the operator of the first spraying done and the first barreling and packing of apples in Nebraska, under the supervision of his father.

In the planting of the extensive orchards by H. W. Shubert, Austin G. Shubert took a very active part from the beginning. At that time he was too young to do much manual labor, but was just large enough to drive a team and haul the trees from the nursery. These trips were made daily during the planting season, to what was regarded at that time as a prominent nursery located eight miles away. This sketch is given to show that Austin G. Shubert is certainly a pioneer fruit man of Nebraska.

Later, Mr. Shubert gradually developed a fine stock farm, making a specialty of registered Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has a well-improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, five miles northeast of Falls City and though now giving the greater part of his attention to the extensive business he has developed in the city, continues to give his personal attention to his live-stock interests and still keeps fifteen or twenty of the finest brood sows in the state of Nebraska. A recent newspaper story relating to Mr. Shubert, and which is richly indicative of his business activity and hustling methods, fits in very aptly in this connection, as follows: "Mr. Shubert rises early and goes to his farm and back before Falls City is ready for business. For instance, a few days ago, it is learned that this man went out to his farm and got back and made a trade with a man from out of town before the business places were ready to do business. His quick decision and short interviews win men of decision and business acumen. He is a minute man. He can tell you immediately what is what. There is nothing in him of the long-drawn-out drone of the scheming, tricky trader. He is open and aboveboard with any business proposition that would be approved by any good business man in the county. He has worked up-stream and this has

developed strength and energy. He seems not to be one of the cheap kind of men that occasionally brag about their business success. Although he has a record of selling more farms than any other Falls City real-estate agent, he never advertises it. Some men are always anxious to let the newspapers know their business of selling a farm; this man never." It was on December 1, 1915, that Mr. Shubert bought out a somewhat run-down real-estate business at Falls City and he has had phenomenal success in that line, in connection with which he also does an extensive business in insurance and farm loans, and is regarded as one of the real "live wires" in local business circles.

On December 15, 1901, Austin G. Shubert was united in marriage to Grace P. Couer, who also was born in Nemaha county, daughter of Lucian Couer and wife, pioneers of that county, and to this union two children have been born, Irma May and Moras Lyndle. Mr. and Mrs. Shubert are members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church and take an earnest interest in church work and in the general good works of the community. Mr. Shubert is a Republican and for eleven years during his residence on the farm was committeeman for the precinct of East Muddy. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and both he and his wife are members of the Daughters of Rebekah, and he also is affiliated with the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Woodmen of the World and the Knights and Ladies of Security, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### FRANK A. HEBENSTREIT.

Frank A. Hebenstreit, of the law firm of Phillips & Hebenstreit at Falls City and one of the best-known and most energetic young lawyers in Richardson county, is a native of Wisconsin, but has been a resident of Nebraska ever since he finished his college work and entered upon the practice of his profession, having been located at Omaha for some time previous to taking up his residence in Falls City. He was born at Shullsburg, Wisconsin, April 12, 1891, son of Andrew and Catherine (McCarten) Hebenstreit, the former of whom was born at that same place and the latter at Kendall, Wisconsin, and who are still making their home at Shullsburg.

Andrew Hebenstreit was born in 1863, a son of Vitus Hebenstreit and wife, who came to this country from Prussia in 1862 and settled in Shullsburg, Wisconsin, where Vitus Hebenstreit became employed in the lead



mines, later becoming engaged in the barber business, and where he and his wife reared their family and spent the rest of their lives. Andrew Hebenstreit grew to manhood there and for a time followed his father's vocation as a barber, but later became engaged in the banking business and was actively connected with the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Shullsburg until his retirement from active business, though he still continues a member of the board of directors of that bank. He married Catherine McCarten, who was born at Kendall, Wisconsin, in 1869, and who also is still living, and to that union were born three children, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, an elder, Anton Hebenstreit, a civil engineer, now residing at Toledo, Iowa, and a younger brother, Austin, now a medical student at Creighton University.

Upon completing the course in the public schools of his native town, Shullsburg, Frank A. Hebenstreit, in 1910, entered the University of Wisconsin and after a two-years' course there entered the law department of Creighton University in 1912 and was graduated from that institution in 1915, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. In that same year he opened an office for the practice of his profession at Omaha and was there thus engaged for eight months, or until January 1, 1916, when he formed his present partnership with Clifford F. Phillips and has since been engaged in practice at Falls City, under the firm style of Phillips & Hebenstreit, which firm has an excellent and rapidly growing practice, both young men having created a distinctly favorable impression upon the community during the comparatively short time they have resided here. Mr. Hebenstreit is a Democrat and since taking up his residence in Falls City has given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs. During the campaign of 1916 he served as the chairman of the Falls City Wilson Club and in that connection did some excellent work in behalf of his party. He and his wife are earnest members of the Catholic church and take an interested part in parish affairs, as well as in the general social and cultural activities of their home town. Mr. Hebenstreit is affiliated with the local council of the Knights of Columbus, with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, with the Knights and Ladies of Security and college fraternity, Delta Theta Phi, and in the affairs of all these organizations takes a warm interest.

On February 1, 1917, at Omaha, Frank A. Hebenstreit was united in marriage to Irene Helen O'Neill, daughter of John and Margaret O'Neill, of that city. Concerning that happy nuptial event the *Omaha Bee* had the following to say: "The marriage of Miss Irene O'Neill, daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. John O'Neill, to Mr. F. A. Hebenstreit, of Falls City, Nebraska, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hebenstreit, of Shullsburg, Wisconsin, was solemnized on Thursday morning at seven o'clock at Sacred Heart church, the Rev. Father Judge officiating. Miss Margaret O'Neill, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and the groom's brother, Mr. Austin Hebenstreit, of Shullsburg, Wisconsin, acted as best man. The out-of-town guests were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hebenstreit and Mr. Austin Hebenstreit, of Shullsburg, Wisconsin; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Dalton and daughters, Margaret and Mary, of Washington, Nebraska, and Mr. T. A. Fahey, of Fremont, Nebraska. The couple left for a honeymoon trip and will be at home after March 1 at Falls City, Nebraska."

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### JAMES R. WILHITE.

Judge James R. Wilhite, an honored veteran of the Civil War, former judge of the court of Richardson county, former police judge and former city attorney of Falls City and a practicing attorney in that city since his admission to the bar in 1877, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of Nebraska since 1865, having settled here almost immediately upon the completion of his military service at the close of the war. He was born on a farm in Morgan county, Illinois, March 21, 1845, son of George Washington and Nancy (Wilhite) Wilhite, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was a son of Humphrey Wilhite, a native Virginian and of Bavarian descent. George W. and Nancy Wilhite were the parents of six sons and two daughters, the subject of this sketch having had a brother, William T. Wilhite, who came to Nebraska in 1860 and later went to the Pacific coast, where he spent his last days, his death occurring at Los Angeles, California, on January 29, 1914. It was in October, 1831, that George W. Wilhite moved from Kentucky to Illinois. He settled on a farm in Morgan county, that state, and there remained until 1886, when he and his wife moved to Wichita, Kansas, where the latter died in September, 1888, in the seventieth year of her age. George W. Wilhite later made his home at Falls City, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there on July 8, 1903, he then being just past ninety years of age, he having been born on January 18, 1813.

Reared on the home farm in Illinois, James R. Wilhite received his early schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and from the days of his boyhood was a valued aid to his father in the labors of developing and





JUDGE AND MRS. JAMES R. WILHITE.





improving the farm. Though but sixteen years of age when the Civil War broke out, he enlisted, in April, 1861, for service in Company E, Fourteenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and with that command served until his discharge, April 23, 1864, on a physician's certificate of disability, two serious wounds received in the battle of the Hatchie River having incapacitated him from further service. During that period of service Judge Wilhite participated in some of the most stirring engagements of the war, having been present with his regiment at the battles at Ft. Donelson, at Shiloh and at Corinth, besides numerous minor skirmishes and engagements. At the notable battle of the Hatchie River, Mississippi, in which more than forty thousand men were engaged, he was wounded in the left arm and in the thigh, injuries which left him practically incapacitated in a physical way for two years thereafter. Nine months after receiving these wounds he received his final discharge and returned home to recuperate.

Upon regaining something of his normal strength, James R. Wilhite came out to the then Territory of Nebraska, landing at Brownville on August 27, 1865, and at Nebraska City, in the neighboring county of Otoe, obtained a job as a "bullwhacker" on the Denver trail and was thus engaged until the following January, during which time he became familiar with the life of the plains and had many interesting experiences. Determining to make his permanent home in Nebraska he then settled in this county, purchasing a tract of land in the precinct of Porter, where he began farming and where he remained until in May, 1873, when he left the farm and located in Falls City, where he ever since has made his home, a period of more than forty-four years. During the time spent on the farm Judge Wilhite had not been neglecting the studies that had been broken off when he entered the army as a boy and he presently turned his attention seriously to the study of the law. Upon locating at Falls City he continued his law studies in a more systematic fashion and in 1877 was admitted to the bar, and opened an office there for the practice of his profession. In that same year he was elected justice of the peace in and for Falls City precinct and served in that important magisterial capacity for two years, serving also as police judge during that same period. In November, 1879, he was elected judge of the county court and served for four years in that capacity, afterward serving two other terms of four years each in that same capacity, these latter periods of service covering the years 1892-96 and 1902-06. In 1910 Judge Wilhite was appointed city attorney of Falls City and in that capacity served for one year. The Judge is an ardent Republican and for years has been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in this county.

In October, 1898, Judge James R. Willhite was united in marriage to Mrs. Sarah E. (Crook) Schoenheit, who was born in Tennessee on March 2, 1849, and who was but six years of age when she came to Nebraska with her parents, Jesse Crook and wife, and settled in Richardson county, the Crooks, who arrived here on April 17, 1855, being the third family to settle in this county. Jesse Crook entered a tract of land at a point one and one-half miles north of what later came to be the county seat of Richardson county and there established his home, becoming one of the substantial pioneer farmers of this county. Sarah E. Crook grew to womanhood on that pioneer farm and married Augustus Schoenheit, a former prominent attorney at Falls City, who died, leaving his widow and three sons, now deceased, and a daughter, Mrs. Sallie McKee, the latter of whom is now living in Colorado. Judge and Mrs. Willhite have a pleasant home at Falls City and have ever taken an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of their home town. Judge Willhite is a member of the Christian church and Mrs. Willhite is an Episcopalian. The Judge is a charter member of the local post of the grand Army of the Republic and has for years taken an earnest interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization.

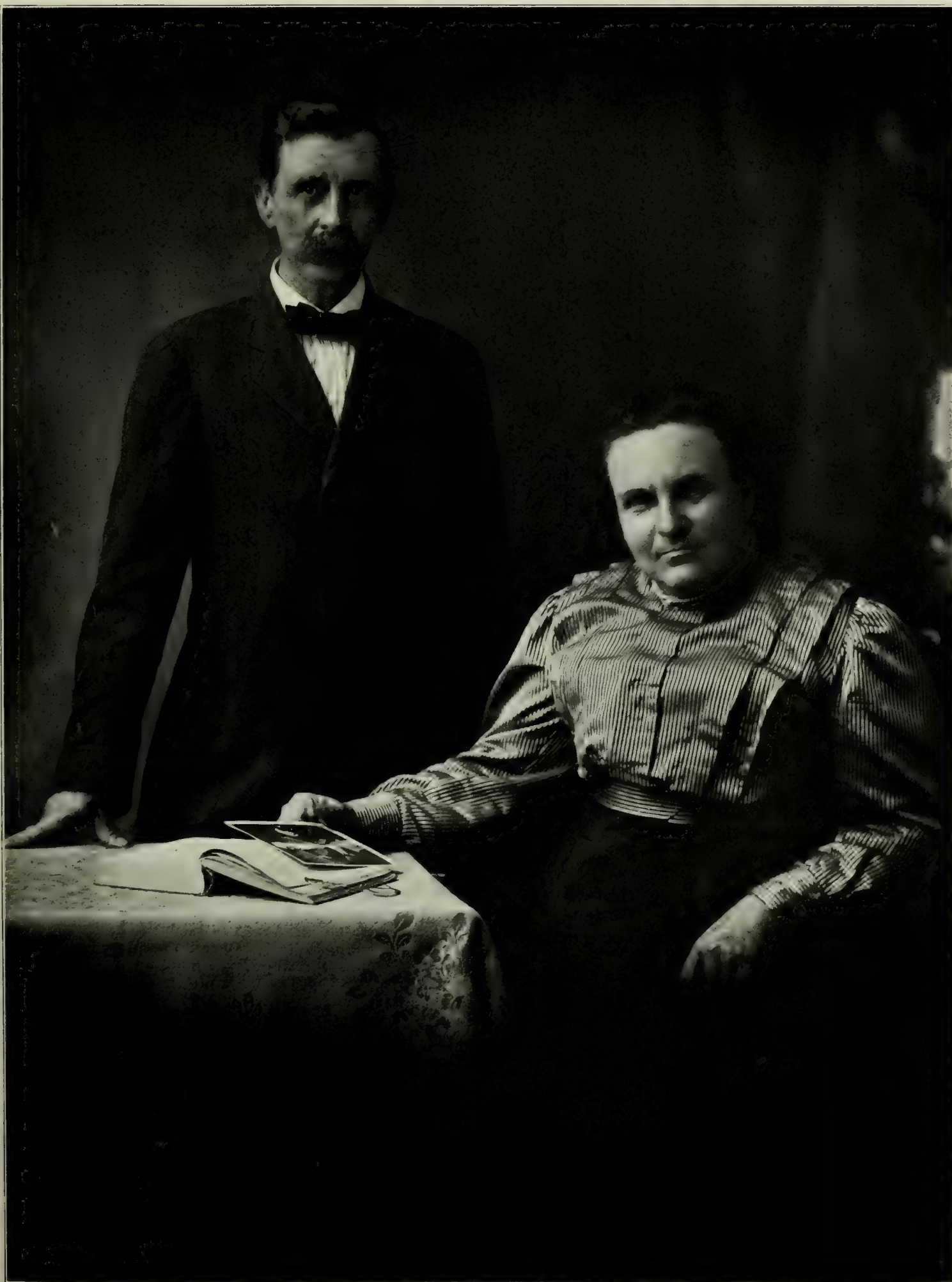
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#### WILLIAM FRANKLIN BUTLER.

William Franklin Butler, a well-known merchant at Barada and a substantial landowner in the precinct of that name, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of this county since he was twenty years of age, having come here with his parents in 1879. He was born in a village in Vermillion county, Illinois, December 8, 1859, son of Ephraim P. and Minerva J. (McCarthy) Butler, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Illinois, who became pioneers of Richardson county and here spent their last days.

Ephraim P. Butler was born on September 2, 1831, and was but three years of age when his parents, Asa and Catherine (Porter) Butler, moved from Kentucky in 1834 and settled in Illinois, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Asa Butler was born in Virginia in 1806 and his wife also was born in the Old Dominion, in that section of the state now comprised in West Virginia, in 1805. Upon moving to Illinois Asa Butler pre-empted a tract of land in Edgar county, but later moved to Vermillion county. In





MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM F. BUTLER.





addition to being a practical farmer he was a skilled blacksmith and operated a pioneer blacksmith shop and also made wagons. He died in November, 1876, and his widow survived him more than twenty years, her death occurring in 1898. They were the parents of nine children, of whom Ephraim P. was the first-born, the others being as follow: William F., deceased; Mrs. Ellen Adams, a widow, of Georgetown, Illinois; Elizabeth, deceased; Walker T., of Sidell, Illinois; Samuel F., of Georgetown, Illinois; Catherine, deceased; Rosa, deceased, and one who died in infancy. Ephraim P. Butler was early trained by his father to the trade of wagon-maker and followed that trade all his life, working at it long after he came to this county. On June 22, 1858, in Carthage, Missouri, he married Minerva J. McCarthy, who was born in Edgar county, Illinois, April 24, 1837, a daughter of Elijah McCarty, who moved to Missouri in 1857 and died in that state in the following year. After his marriage Ephraim P. Butler continued to make his home in Illinois until 1879, when he came with his family to Nebraska and settled at Falls City, moving thence a year later to Barada, where he established himself as a wagon-maker. Though starting in a small way he presently began doing a good business and as he prospered invested in land and became the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres in the precinct of Barada. He died on May 23, 1904, and his widow survived for a little less than three years, her death occurring in March, 1907. They were members of the Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith. There were four of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Elmer E., of Hebron, Nebraska; Addah, wife of Charles Martin, a landowner in section 10 of the precinct of Barada, and Clellie, wife of M. M. Hendricks, also a landowner in Barada precinct.

As noted above, William F. Butler was about twenty years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1879 and he worked on his father's farm until after his marriage in 1883, when he rented a farm and began farming on his own account. In 1898 he bought a farm in section 19 of Barada precinct and set about improving and developing the same, only about forty acres of the place having been improved when he took possession. Among these improvements made by Mr. Butler was the setting out of an orchard of ten acres. In 1908 Mr. Butler retired from the farm and moved to Barada, where he bought the Lloyd Mitchell store and has since been engaged in business at that place. In 1910 he built his present sub-

stantial store building and is doing an extensive business, his store being well stocked and conducted along up-to-date lines. Mr. Butler still owns his farm of two hundred and fifty acres in the neighborhood of Barada and is recognized as one of the substantial citizens of that part of the county. He is a Republican and gives his earnest attention to local political affairs.

On March 15, 1883, William F. Butler was united in marriage to Ella Underwood, who also was born in Vermillion county, Illinois, December 16, 1863, daughter of Harrison S. and Elizabeth (Gebhard) Underwood, the former of whom was born in Virginia, a son of John and Drusilla Underwood, of Virginia, who was one of the organizers of Vermillion county, Illinois. Achilles Morgan, her great-grandfather, settled in Vermillion county in 1822, and the latter in Illinois, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Asa E., who was graduated from the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru and is now teaching at Huntley, this state, married Pearl Morgan at Minden, September 18, 1907. She died at Huntley, Nebraska, April 23, 1917, leaving five children, Norvall, Joy, Asa E., Ivan M., and Nellie Irene; Kittie, who married Guy Sailors, a clerk in the store at Barada, and has two children, Howard and Lois; Lela, wife of Doctor Bloomenkamp, of Barada, and has one child, William Lawrence; Harley D., married August 11, 1915, to Helen Bolejack, who is farming, and Nellie and Emma, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Butler are members of the United Evangelical church and have ever taken a proper interest in church work and other neighborhood good works. Mr. Butler is a member of the local lodges of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Woodmen of the World and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these organizations.

The Underwood family had its beginning in America with the coming to this country from England of William Underwood, who became a colonist in 1637. His son, William Underwood, settled in Virginia in 1680, and it is from that line that Harrison S. Underwood was descended. Harrison S. Underwood, son of John and Drusilla Underwood, was born on August 25, 1832, and died on January 22, 1870. His wife, Elizabeth, was born on August 25, 1837, and died on July 3, 1898. They were the parents of three children, Mrs. Butler having a sister, Mrs. Emily A. Williams, who was born on February 15, 1858, and who is now living at Bloomington, Illinois, and a brother, Lincoln A. Underwood, born on May 6, 1860, who is now living at San Francisco, California. Mrs. Butler also is descended, on the maternal side, from the old colonial Virginia family of Morgans.



## ERNEST S. FERGUS.

A careful and enterprising farmer of Porter precinct, Richardson county, is Ernest S. Fergus, who was born in that vicinity, on a farm three and one-half miles southeast of his present home, July 11, 1872. He is a son of James Corwin and Frances (Forgey) Fergus. The father was born in 1846 and died on February 13, 1905; the mother was born in 1841 and died on March 9, 1906. These parents grew to maturity in Ohio, where they were married. Shannon Fergus, the paternal grandfather, was an early settler in the old Buckeye state. James C. Fergus first came to Nebraska in 1869 and selected a farm in section 29, Porter precinct, Richardson county, then returned to Ohio and married there in 1871. Returning with his family to Richardson county he applied himself closely to the management of his farm and prospered, in fact, he accumulated a fortune as the result of his rare ability in a business way. He became the owner of one thousand two hundred and forty acres of good land, all in Richardson county, with the exception of three hundred and twenty acres in Pawnee county. He had the foresight to see a great future for the state of Nebraska and he invested all he had in land, which was cheap in those days. He farmed on an extensive scale and handled live stock in large herds. He was one of the leading citizens of the county in his day. Politically, he was a Republican, and he belonged to the Presbyterian church. He served during the latter part of the Civil War, having enlisted in 1864 in Company B, One Hundred and Forty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving until the close of hostilities in the Army of the Potomac. He fought in the battles around Richmond, Virginia.

Ernest S. Fergus was reared on his father's farm, where he was an apt pupil under his able father in general agricultural affairs. He attended the public schools of his community and the Humboldt high school, after which he took up active farming, remaining with his parents until he was twenty-four years of age; he then began life for himself. Most of his present farm was inherited from the estate; however, he has added one hundred and sixty acres, in section 24, Franklin precinct. The one hundred and sixty acres, his part of the homestead, lies in section 18. He moved to his present home in 1896. He has a commodious and attractive residence of ten rooms; he also has a large barn and many other convenient out-buildings. He carries on general farming and stock raising and is very successful.

Mr. Fergus was married on March 10, 1897, to Jennie May Butter-

field, who was born in York county, Nebraska. She is a daughter of George and Carrie Butterfield, a well-known old family in Humboldt, where they still reside. The following children have been born to Ernest S. Fergus and wife, namely: Thelma, born on January 5, 1900, is now attending Humboldt high school, class of 1918; Mabel, April 22, 1902; Fern, July 18, 1913, and Ernest Harlan, January 23, 1916.

Politically, Mr. Fergus is a Republican but is not active in party affairs and he now votes independently. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### DANIEL H. WEBER.

Prof. Daniel H. Weber, superintendent of schools for Richardson county, is a native of the neighboring Sunflower state, but has been a resident of Nebraska since the days of his childhood. He was born on a farm in Marshall county, Kansas, February 12, 1887, son of Daniel and Priscilla (Wolfgang) Weber, natives, respectively, of Germany and of Pennsylvania, the latter of Pennsylvania-German stock, born in 1860, who are now living in Gage county, this state.

Daniel Weber, Sr., was born in 1854 and was fourteen years of age when he came to this country with his parents in 1868, the family first locating in Illinois, where they lived for two or three years and then, in the early seventies, moved to Kansas and settled in Marshall county, where they remained until 1889, when they came to this state and located in Gage county, where Daniel Weber, Sr., is now engaged in railroad work.

Daniel H. Weber was but two years of age when his parents moved from Kansas over the line into Nebraska and he grew to manhood in Gage county. From his earliest youth he was a diligent student and at the age of eighteen, in 1905, began teaching school at Barnston, in his home county, and was thus engaged at that place for three years, later teaching for two years in the vicinity of Beatrice, in the meantime continuing his studies in Wesleyan University at University Place, Lincoln, and at the Peru Normal School and was graduated from the latter institution in 1910. Before receiving his diploma he had been called to the superintendency of the schools at Shubert, this county, and was there engaged in that capacity for five years, or until his election, in 1914, to the office of superintendent of schools of Richardson county. During his first term of office in that incumbency Professor Weber



gave so many evidences of his fitness for the position that he was re-elected and is now serving his second term, continuing to give his most earnest and whole-hearted attention to the interests of the schools of the county. In his political affiliation Professor Weber is a Democrat and has ever given his thoughtful attention to civic affairs.

On December 25, 1912, Prof. Daniel H. Weber was united in marriage to Lillian Hiatt, of Shubert, a former teacher in the schools of this county and a daughter of J. A. Hiatt and wife, of Weeping Water. Professor and Mrs. Weber are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the local lodges of the Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Woodmen of the World and in the affairs of all of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

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### JOSHUA BLOOM.

Joshua Bloom, well-known and substantial farmer of Muddy precinct, this county, proprietor of a fine farm in section 22 of that precinct, a successful cattle breeder and treasurer of the Richardson County Mutual Insurance Company, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Nebraska and of Richardson county since he was nineteen years of age, having come here in 1884. He was born on a farm in Mahoning county, Ohio, May 17, 1865, son of Jacob and Clementine (Swartz) Bloom, who later came to Nebraska and settled in this county and further and fitting reference to whom is made elsewhere in this volume.

Reared on a farm in Ohio, Joshua Bloom early became a practical farmer and a self-reliant workman. Upon coming to this county in 1884 he began working in the neighborhood of Falls City and later rented a tract of land north of Verdon and began farming on his own account. In the fall of 1894 he married and in 1902 bought the first "eighty" of his present farm in section 22 of the precinct of Muddy and proceeded to develop and improve the same, building a house and barn, setting out trees and bringing the place up to a high state of cultivation. He later bought an additional "eighty" there and now he and his wife are the owners of a fine place of two hundred and forty acres. They remodeled their house in 1909 and are now very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. Mr. Bloom has made a specialty of the breeding of Shorthorn cattle and is doing very well. In addition to his farming operations he has also given attention

to the general business affairs of the community and for some time has been serving as treasurer of the Richardson County Mutual Insurance Company, in the affairs of which he takes an active interest.

On September 6, 1894, Joshua Bloom was united in marriage to Lillie M. Weaver, who was born on a pioneer farm in the precinct of Muddy, this county, daughter of Jesse and Emma R. (Kroh) Weaver, natives of Pennsylvania, who were married in Illinois and about 1874 came to Nebraska and settled in Richardson county, where their last days were spent. Mr. and Mrs. Bloom have two sons, Bernard and Myron, both of whom are at home. They are members of the Christian church and take a proper interest in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. Bloom is a Democrat and is now serving as a member of the school board in district 16 and as overseer of road district No. 4. He is a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Woodmen of the World, becoming a charter member, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

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#### LESTER C. WILSON.

The name of the late Lester C. Wilson will long be remembered in Richardson county, for all those who knew him say he was an industrious and public-spirited citizen, who stood well among his neighbors and friends during his long residence in Franklin precinct. He was born on December 4, 1861, in Marion county, Iowa. He was a son of Liberty and Kitty (Wilson) Wilson, natives of Illinois, from which state they moved to Iowa, where they spent the rest of their lives.

Lester C. Wilson attended the public schools in Marion county, Iowa, and remained in his native state until in 1880, when he came to Nebraska, and here he was married on February 27, 1884, to Emma Shrader, who was born on July 9, 1865, in Rush county, Indiana. She is a daughter of Henry C. and Martha M. (Overheiser) Shrader. Mr. Shrader was born on January 17, 1832, and died on January 14, 1907. His wife was born on April 17, 1832, and died on March 16, 1880. She was a daughter of George Overheiser, who was a son of John Casper and Mary (Near) Overheiser, who were parents of twenty-one children. George Overheiser was a grandson of Conrad and Mary (Story) Overheiser, and was born in Otsego county,





MR. AND MRS. LESTER C. WILSON.





New York, August 21, 1804, and he died in Indiana in 1862. In 1826 he married Elizabeth Storms, a daughter of Peter and Dorcas (Ballard) Storms. She was a granddaughter of Thomas and Acenath Ballard. She was born on June 30, 1807, in New York state, and died in Indiana in 1860. In 1838 he moved to Indiana, settling first in Fayette county; later moved to Hancock county and finally to Blackford county, that state. His family consisted of thirteen children, namely: Belinda, born on December 18, 1827; John P., November 9, 1828; Mary, July 26, 1830; Elvira, March 25, 1832; Martha M., April 17, 1833; Henry S., January 2, 1835; Alanson, June 2, 1836; Ann H., March 16, 1838; Charles, February 15, 1840; Willard B., November 1, 1841; George M., January 21, 1843; Sarah E., March 6, 1845; Keturah, April 20, 1847.

Henry C. Shrader went from Rush county, Indiana, to Rockport, Missouri, arriving there on March 1, 1868. He crossed the river into Richardson county and bought forty acres north of Rulo, and three miles east of Barada, and lived there seven years. In 1875 he moved two miles nearer Barada onto the prairie; then moved to Barada. He experienced the hardships of the three grasshopper years, from 1871 to 1873, inclusive, when his family nearly starved to death. He moved to Stella, Nebraska, in 1882. His family consisted of the following children: Ida, the wife of W. D. Elmore and they live in Nemaha township; Belle lives in Chicago; Harvey lives at Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; John also resides at Broken Arrow; Willard and Alice are both deceased, and Mrs. Wilson.

After their marriage Lester C. Wilson and wife settled in Franklin precinct, Richardson county, in 1884, at Franklin Center, living on a farm there six years; then moved two miles east of that place, where they spent two years. In 1892 they bought one hundred and twenty acres, half a mile north of the present Wilson homestead, and there Mr. Wilson made a number of improvements, remodeling the dwelling house, dying soon thereafter, on December 28, 1899, at the age of thirty-seven years and twenty-four days. After his death Mrs. Wilson moved to the town of Humboldt, where she spent three years, sold out and bought a cheap tract of land in Butler county, Kansas, but not liking that country as a place to live, she returned to Richardson county in 1906 and bought her present farm of eighty acres in Franklin precinct, which place she has managed successfully. She has an attractive home and good outbuildings, and everything about the place shows thrift and good taste. She has a rich bottom land farm, well improved and under a high state of cultivation. Her only child, Opal P., is the wife of B. W.

Sterns, a farmer of Franklin precinct, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

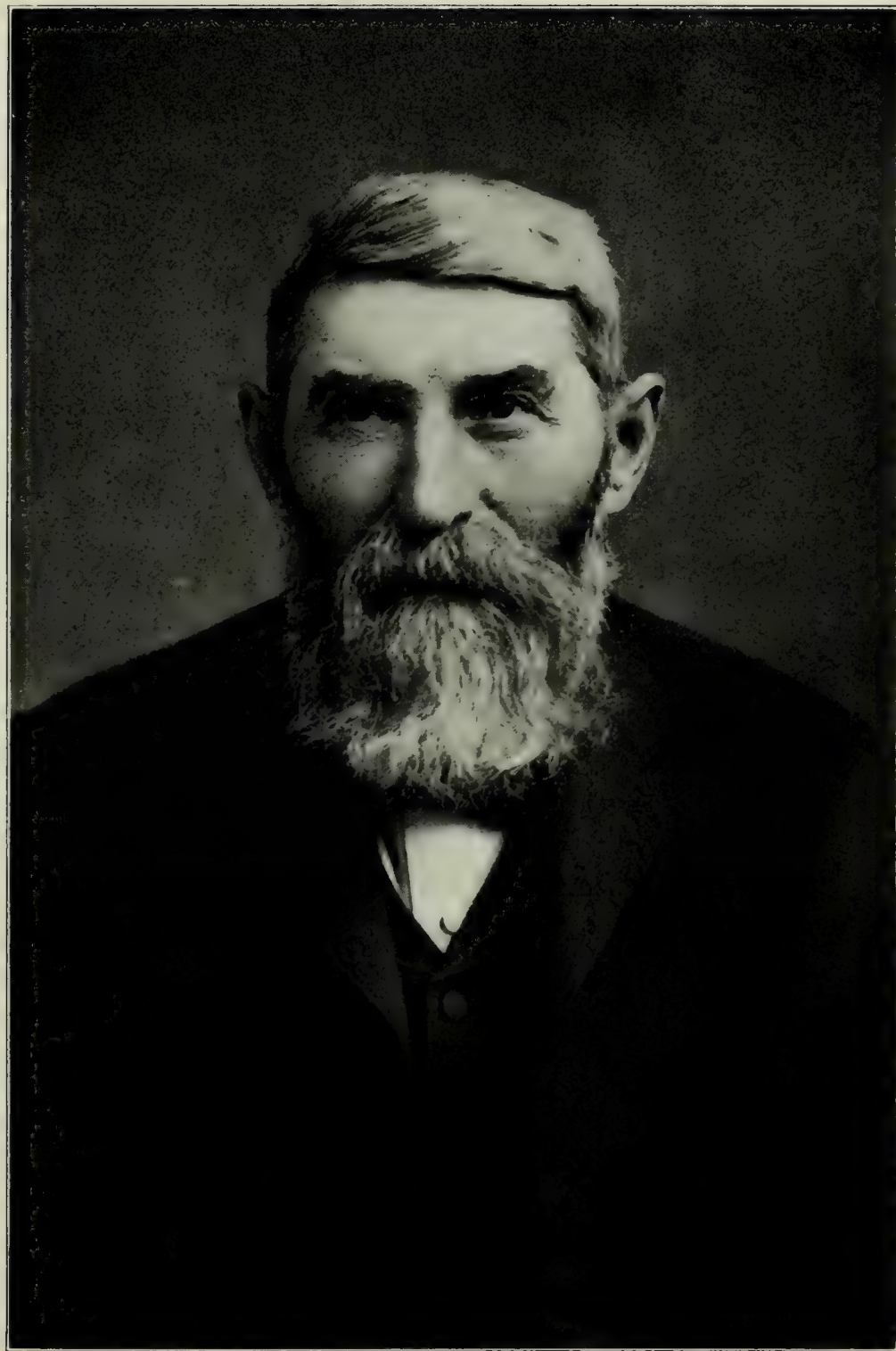
Politically, Lester C. Wilson was a Democrat. He belonged to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Wilson is also a member.

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### LEOPOLD PORR.

There is a large element of foreign-born citizens in Richardson county, most of whom came here in pioneer days, with little or no capital. Here they have found comfortable homes and have developed one of the fine agricultural sections of the West. Of this number the name of Leopold Porr, farmer and stockman, of Speiser precinct, should be mentioned. He was born in the Rhine country of Bavaria, Germany, August 31, 1835. He is a son of Leopold and Elizabeth (Hoffman) Porr, and is the eldest of a family of four children, the names of the other three being, Katherine, who died in St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1858; Charles, who died on December 16, 1916, and Elizabeth, wife of Henry Lueck, of Jackson county, Kansas, and her death occurred on November 25, 1907. The father of the above named children was born in Germany in June, 1811, and he was killed in a runaway in 1879. He grew up in his native land, married there and on March 7, 1857, he left his native land for America, and settled in Andrews county, Missouri, but three months later came to Richardson county, pre-empting one hundred and sixty acres, the present home of the Porr family. The family made their first trip to this farm from Missouri on foot, selected their future home, and moved their household effects here with an ox-team, which they also used to break up the prairie sod. They started in the usual pioneer manner, built a small log cabin, twelve by fourteen feet, with a dirt floor, which the family lived in for two years, then the father built a larger one, which still stands. They worked hard and in due course of time had a good farm and a comfortable home. Their nearest markets were St. Joseph, Missouri, and Brownville, Nebraska, whither they hauled wheat, bacon and other products of the farm, which were usually exchanged for wearing apparel. They received very low prices for their grain and meat and there was often no market for butter at any price, so they sometimes gave it away or dumped it into the Missouri river. On June 1, 1857, Leopold Porr, Sr., took out his first naturalization papers and in 1862 received his second papers. He





LEOPOLD PORR.





worked hard, lived frugally and endured the hardships of frontier life as well as his neighbors. For some time he herded cattle on the plains. He did his farm work with oxen, having no horses. The nearest grist-mill was at Salem. He came near losing his life by drowning in the river, which had become swollen by rains while he was at the mill at Salem, accompanied by his brother.

Leopold Porr, Jr., subject of this sketch, grew to manhood in Germany and was educated there; he was twenty-one years old when he came to Richardson county. He was married on February 8, 1872, to Minnie Guyer, who was born on May 31, 1853, near Davenport, Iowa. She is a daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Zimmer) Guyer, natives of Germany, from which country they came to Richardson county, this state, in 1856.

To Mr. and Mrs. Porr six children were born, namely: Otto L., who lives near Sabetha, Kansas; Sophia, keeping house for her father; Henry, deceased; Ernest F., who lives in Speiser precinct, Richardson county; Frank R., operating the home place, and Alvin A., who lives on a farm in Speiser precinct.

Mr. Porr, of this sketch, has devoted his life to general farming and stock raising and he is owner of a well-improved and productive farm of four hundred and forty acres, in sections 15 and 16, Speiser precinct. He has always kept high-grade live stock, making a specialty of Hereford cattle. He has managed well and worked hard and has met with success all along the line. Politically, Mr. Porr is a Republican. He has been a member of the German Reformed church since 1849.

In 1862 Mr. Porr took a load of wheat to Leavenworth, Kansas, for the soldiers at the army post, making the trip with Ulrich Beutler, taking forty bushels for which they received ninety cents per bushel. The snow was so deep that they had to remain at Lancaster, Kansas, a few days before they could resume their journey, waiting for the snow to melt. They returned by the Kickapoo Indian reservation, and there they camped on account of the cold. Upon their return trip home they had hard work keeping from freezing to death. During the period of the Indian troubles in the West, Mr. Porr assisted in organizing a company for the protection of Richardson county. One morning he started out with Peter Stephen on a scouting expedition and encountered a party of over five hundred hostile red men, who gave chase. They finally surrounded him but did not harm him.

Mr. Porr has a clock in his possession which the family brought from

the old country, in the sailing vessel that took fifty-six days to cross the Atlantic. The clock was made for Grandfather Porr; it is ten feet high and eighteen inches across. Although it is two hundred years old, it still keeps good time, and has been in constant use ever since it was made, and has had no attention by clock repairers.

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### DAVID KEAN.

David Kean, one of Richardson county's well-known and substantial farmers and the proprietor of a fine farm of a quarter of a section in the Dawson neighborhood in the precinct of Grant, is a New Englander by birth, but has been a resident of this county ever since he was fourteen years of age, with the exception of two years during the time of the grasshopper plague back in the middle seventies, when the family was compelled to return East to await the return of normal conditions. He was born in the state of Connecticut on June 15, 1859, the eighth in order of birth of the ten children born to his parents, Thomas and Bridget Kean, natives of Ireland, and the former of whom died in Connecticut in 1869.

After the death of her husband the Widow Kean maintained her home in Connecticut until 1873, when she disposed of her interests there and with six of her children, Thomas, James, Ellen, Elizabeth, Sarah and David, came to Nebraska and settled in this county. She bought a quarter of a section of raw prairie land in the precinct of Grant, this county, the place now occupied by the subject of this sketch, and there enlisted her home; but the next year, 1874, when the grasshoppers came and took everything in sight she returned to Connecticut with her family and remained there until 1877, by which time things out here were beginning to resume their normal aspect, when she returned here and resumed her place on the farm, the cultivation of which she successfully directed. Years afterward she went to California to make her home with her daughters, who meanwhile had gone to that state, and there she spent her last days, her death occurring in 1903, she then being in the eighty-second year of her age. Before her death her son, David Kean, bought from her the home place which meanwhile he had helped to develop into one of the best farms in that neighborhood and on which, after his marriage in 1883, he had established his home, and he ever since has resided there, he and his family being very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. The Kean place is situated just three miles northeast of the village of Dawson and Mr. Kean has created there one of the best farm plants in the east



central part of the county. Mr. Kean also owns fifty acres a half mile east of Dawson. He is a Democrat and from the days of his boyhood has taken an interested part in the political affairs of his home county and has filled various precinct offices at one time and another.

On January 28, 1883, David Kean was united in marriage to Mary A. Fenton, of this county, who was born on October 5, 1863, in Virginia, a daughter of Jeremiah and Catherine (Callan) Fenton, natives of Ireland, who came to this country in the fifties and settled in Connecticut, later moving to Virginia, where they were living when the Civil War broke out. Successfully resisting an attempt to force him into the Confederate army, Jeremiah Fenton escaped back to Connecticut and in 1867 came from that state to Nebraska and settled with his family on a farm in the precinct of Grant, in this county, early becoming recognized as among the most influential pioneers of that section. In 1878 he was elected a member of the state Legislature from this district and in other ways gave his service to the new commonwealth back in pioneer days. His brother, William Fenton, also served as a member of the Legislature from this district years ago. William T. Fenton, a brother of Mrs. Kean, is warden of the state penitentiary. Mr. and Mrs. Kean have twelve children, a family of which they are justly proud, namely: Bridget, who is keeping house for her bachelor brothers on their farm northwest of the old home place; Jeremiah, a farmer, in the neighborhood of his father's farm, who is married and has three children; Thomas F. and Joseph, who are farming the old Clancy farm, northwest of the home place; David, also a farmer, who is married and has one child; William E., who is farming with his brother, David, a mile and a half northeast of town; Katie, who is at home; Emmet, a farmer; Hannah, at home, a teacher in the home district, No. 34; Mary, also a teacher, teaching the Arnold school, district No. 24; Leo, at home, and John, who is attending school at Dawson. Thomas, David, Joseph, William and Emmet have all registered for service in behalf of their country in the great war.

The Keans are members of the Catholic church and have ever taken an earnest part in parish affairs, as well as in the general good works of the neighborhood and in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in many ways in advancing the common interest thereabout. Mr. Kean is a member of the local lodge of the Knights and Ladies of Security and in the affairs of that organization takes a warm interest. Mr. Kean is serving as vice-president of the local Red Cross chapter and has taken a very active part in the organization and raising of funds. Every member of his family has joined the Red Cross society.

## JOHN F. WEDDLE.

John F. Weddle, vice-president of the State Bank of Stella, a well-known merchant of that thriving little city, a successful dealer in hardware and furniture there, and a well-to-do landowner, is a native son of Richardson county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm not far from the county line in the precinct of East Muddy on October 15, 1875, son of Lewis M. and Martha E. (Fleener) Weddle, natives of Indiana, who became early residents of this county and the latter of whom is still living here, one of the honored pioneers of Richardson county.

The late Lewis M. Weddle, an honored veteran of the Civil War and a former member of the board of county commissioners of Richardson county, was born in Indiana on October 6, 1843, and as a young man went to Illinois, where he engaged in farming and where he was living when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted his services in behalf of the Union and not long after the completion of his military service came west with his family and settled at Nebraska City, remaining there until about 1873, when he came down into this part of the state and settled on a farm in section 15 of East Muddy precinct, this county, where he established his home and where he spent the remainder of his life, one of the most useful and influential pioneers of that part of the county. Lewis M. Weddle was a good farmer and as his affairs prospered he added to his holdings until he became a considerable landowner in the northern part of the county. He gave considerable attention to the raising of live stock and in the height of his efforts in that direction was accustomed to keeping seven hundred or eight hundred head of cattle on his place. Politically, he was a Democrat and but a few years before his death had served a term as a member of the board of county commissioners from his district. Fraternally, he was a member of the local lodges of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Nemaha City and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Woodmen of the World at Shubert, and in the affairs of these organizations took a warm interest. He was a member of the Christian church and took a proper interest in church work, as well as in the general good works of the community, and was helpful in advancing all movements designed to promote the common welfare hereabout. Lewis M. Weddle died on November 24, 1915, and Mrs. Weddle also is dead. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the seventh in order of birth, the others being as follow: William M., a farmer and landowner in section 15 of East Muddy precinct, this county;



Selmon, of Quincy, Illinois; Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Brisby, of East Muddy precinct; Mrs. Allie Lewis, of Aspinwall township, in the neighboring county of Nemaha; James A., a farmer of the precinct of East Muddy; Mrs. Lenora Colglazier, of Falls City; Walter J., of Hemingford, this state; Oscar E., of East Muddy precinct; Lawson W., now a resident of the state of Wyoming, and Mrs. Gertrude Harris, of East Muddy precinct.

Reared on the home farm in East Muddy precinct, John F. Weddle grew up there and from boyhood was familiar with pioneer conditions, his boyhood recollections preserving many interesting incidents of the early days in that part of the county. He received his schooling in the schools of district No. 84 and district No. 103 and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant in the labors of improving and developing the home place. When eighteen years of age he began farming on his own account, renting a tract of ground from his father, and after his marriage in 1892 established his home on the farm, continuing to make that place his home until his retirement from the farm in 1911 and removal to Stella, where he since has made his home and where he and his wife are very pleasantly situated. Upon moving to Stella Mr. Weddle bought the J. W. Vaught hardware and furniture store and has since been conducting the same, doing very well in his business venture, and has built up an extensive hardware business there. For some time Mr. Weddle had been a stockholder in the State Bank of Stella and in 1916 was elected vice-president of the same, which position he still occupies. In addition to these holdings he is the owner of a well-kept farm of eighty acres in section 15 of East Muddy precinct, a part of the old home place. Mr. Weddle is a Democrat and for four years during his life on the farm served as treasurer of his home precinct.

On November 1, 1892, John F. Weddle was united in marriage to Effie M. Weaver, daughter of H. D. and Martha (Shafer) Weaver, natives, respectively, of Pennsylvania and of Illinois, who became pioneers of Richardson county, the former of whom is now deceased and the latter of whom is still living, making her home at Stella, and to this union was born one child, a daughter, Ruby Fayette, now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Weddle have a very pleasant home at Stella and take a proper part in the general social activities of their home town, helpful in promoting such agencies as are designed to advance the common welfare. Mr. Weddle is a Mason and a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of these fraternal organizations takes a warm interest.

## CLIFFORD F. PHILLIPS.

Clifford F. Phillips, of the law firm of Phillips & Hebenstreit at Falls City, secretary of the famous Falls City Boosters' Club, secretary of the Republican central committee of Richardson county and one of the best-known young lawyers in this part of the state, is a native son of Nebraska and has lived in this state all his life. He was born at Beatrice on March 17, 1890, son of John Thomas and Mary Lillian (Tice) Phillips, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Ohio, who are now living in Beatrice, where Mr. Phillips has a fine business.

John Thomas Phillips, who was born in 1859, was fifteen years of age when he accompanied his parents from Virginia to Ohio and in the latter state he completed his schooling and grew to manhood, becoming an expert plasterer. There he married Mary Lillian Tice, who was born in Ohio in 1864, and in 1885 he and his wife came to Nebraska and located at Beatrice, where Mr. Phillips began working at his trade, presently becoming a general contractor in that line and has ever since been thus engaged there. He and his wife have three children, those besides the subject being another son, James Tice Phillips, who is the general auditor for the Oahu Railroad and Land Company at Honolulu, Hawaii, and a daughter, Mrs. Hazel Steinmeyer, of Beatrice.

Reared at Beatrice, Clifford F. Phillips completed the course in the high school there and then took a course of collegiate work at the University of Nebraska in preparation for the further study of law and thus equipped by preliminary study, entered the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in 1914. Upon receiving his degree Mr. Phillips returned to Beatrice and was there engaged in the law office of Hazlett & Jack, acquiring practical experience in the practice of his profession, until in May, 1915, when he located at Falls City and there opened an office for the practice of his profession, practicing alone there until in January, 1916, when he formed his present partnership with Frank A. Hebenstreit, under the firm name of Phillips & Hebenstreit, which firm is enjoying a constantly increasing practice, both young men having distinctly "made good" during their comparatively brief residence in that city. Mr. Phillips is a Republican and his activities in behalf of the interests of that party provided so effectual a recommendation to the leaders of the party in this county that he was made secretary of the Republican county central committee and is still serving in that capacity. From the



very beginning of his residence in Falls City he demonstrated his capacity for active service as a "live wire" and in May, 1916, he was elected secretary of the Falls City Boosters' Club and has since done excellent service in behalf of the promotion of the city's interests along all lines.

On March 26, 1915, Clifford F. Phillips was united in marriage to Kathryn Justesen, of Council Bluffs, daughter of Peter Justesen and wife, of that city, and to this union has been born one child, a daughter, Ellen Jane. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips are members of the Presbyterian church and take a proper part in church work and in the general good works of the city, as well as in the social and cultural activities of the community, helpful in promoting all worthy causes hereabout. Mr. Phillips is a Mason and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and in the affairs of these two popular fraternal orders takes an active interest.

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#### WILLIAM C. NORTON.

Under the able management of William C. Norton, the *Humboldt Standard* is wielding a potent influence for the general good of the people of Richardson county, for he is a man of progressive ideas and unquestioned public spirit.

Mr. Norton was born, December 21, 1869, at Evansville, Wisconsin. He is a son of John T. and Delphine (McMillan) Norton, natives of New York state, where they spent their earlier years, later moving to Wisconsin, and in 1874 came to Richardson county, Nebraska. The father devoted his active life to the grain and live-stock business, in which he was successful. His death occurred on September 26, 1916, at the age of eighty years. His wife died on November 7, 1907, at the age of fifty-eight years. Three children were born to John T. Norton and wife, namely: Charles M., who lives in Humboldt; William C., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Laura M. Campbell, who resides at Hastings, Nebraska.

William C. Norton was educated in the common schools and in the Humboldt high school. When thirteen years of age he began learning the printer's trade in the office of the *Standard* and has since been connected with that paper, with the exception of twelve years, when he was employed in city printing offices. He returned to Humboldt in December, 1908, and took charge of the *Standard*, which he has improved in various ways, brightening it up from a mechanical standpoint and increasing its circulation. The

*Standard* is well edited and its columns set forth each week the best of the local and general news. It is recognized as a valuable advertising medium.

On May 3, 1896, Mr. Norton was married to Sue M. Willis, of Humboldt, a daughter of S. P. Willis, who is now a resident of Colorado. To Mr. and Mrs. Norton two children have been born, Harry K., born on November 2, 1897, and Delphine, October 12, 1901.

Mr. Norton is a Democrat and is active in the support of his party. He has served as city clerk of Humboldt. Fraternally, he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He belongs to the Presbyterian church.

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### JOHN HARDEN COONS.

Among the successful farmers and stockmen of Porter precinct, this county, is John H. Coons, owner of the east half of section 28, that precinct, containing three hundred and twenty acres of prime land. He was born on March 11, 1860, in Sangamon county, Illinois, and is the son of Benjamin Thomas and Hannah E. (Smith) Coons, both of whom were twice married.

Benjamin T. Coons, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Morgan county, Illinois, on April 11, 1826, and died on December 15, 1916. He was the son of Martin Coons, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, who in an early day became a settler of the state of Illinois. Benjamin T. Coons came to Richardson county in 1869 and in the following year bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of and near Stella, Muddy precinct, paying for the same two thousand one hundred dollars. He farmed on this land for the rest of his active life until he retired about 1892. He was generally recognized as a successful farmer and stockman. In addition to his work on the farm, he was also interested in the cause of education and served on the township school board for several years. He was a member of the Baptist church and a liberal subscriber to its upkeep.

Benjamin T. Coons was married twice. His first wife was Martha Smith, and to that union two children were born, namely: Mrs. Margaret Thompson, deceased, and Mrs. Nancy Creed, who lives in Humboldt, this state. By his marriage to Hannah E. Smith, sister of his first wife, he became the father of nine children as follow: William, who lives in Webster county, this state; John H., Mrs. Mary Dawson, also living in Webster; Mrs. Laura Creed, living in Humboldt, this state; Louise, also living in





MR. AND MRS. JOHN H. COONS.





Humboldt; Charles, deceased; George H., in Frankfort, Kansas; Mrs. Pearl Jones, deceased, and one that died in infancy. By her former marriage to Dow Robinson two children were born, James H., living in Webster, Nebraska, and a girl who died when young. Dow Robinson was a native of Illinois; his parents were born in Kentucky. Mrs. Hannah (Smith) Coon's parents, James Smith and wife, were natives of Morgan county, Illinois, and came to Pawnee county, Nebraska, about 1882 and lived there for the remainder of their lives.

John H. Coons was nine years old when his parents came to this state. He attended the Hays district school and later assisted his father on the farm; he also worked one year for M. E. Quinlan, an old settler. In 1882 he started doing for himself by renting land, working in this way up to 1884, when he went into the livery business at Stella. He then, from 1886 to 1892, rented land in Nemaha county, and in 1892 he bought his present farm, which was the homestead of a Mr. Smith, from Hagerstown, Maryland, later owned by Alex Coleman. At the time Mr. Coons bought the land from Fredrick Marquette, some improvements had been effected on it. Since it has come into Mr. Coons' possession he has made further extensive improvements and has set out a large grove of trees, which adds considerably to the general appearance of the place. In addition to his farming activities he is also engaged in breeding and feeding of live stock, and in this line, as in his general farming, he has met with a large measure of success.

On March 9, 1886, John H. Coons was united in marriage to Llevellyn Rosenberger, a daughter of Absalom and Elizabeth (Smith) Rosenberger, natives of West Virginia and Illinois, respectively, who were early settlers of the state of Iowa and who came to Richardson county in 1884, both dying at a later date while living with Mr. Coons. Absalom Rosenberger was born in December, 1826, and died in 1890. His wife was born in 1830 and died in 1907. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Coons no children have been born, but they have adopted two children, namely: William M. Rife, a sketch of whom appears in another part of this work, and Arlo H., now a private in Company A, Fourth Nebraska Infantry Regiment, enlisted for service in the great war.

Mr. Coons has always given loyal support to the Democratic party, but on certain occasions he is an independent voter. He has served his township as road overseer for the past six years and in other ways served his township and county. He and his wife are members of the Methodist church. He is a member of the Farmers Union and is president of the Dawson district of that organization.

## JACOB S. HEIM.

Another member of the Heim family who is a prominent farmer of Richardson county, is Jacob S. Heim, owner of one hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land in the northeast quarter of section 8, Grant precinct. He is a native of the Keystone state, having been born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, on July 16, 1866. He is a son of John J. and Rosina (Heim) Heim, and has been a resident of this part of Nebraska since he was sixteen years old.

John J. Heim, also a native of Pennsylvania, was born on July 2, 1847, in Lycoming county, that state. He continued to live there for thirty-five years, at the end of which time, in 1882, he came to Grant precinct, Richardson county, and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he at once proceeded to cultivate. As time went on he prospered in his farming operations and later added to his land holdings. He owned the place on which his son, Jacob S., now lives, and he is now living retired on the Israel L. Heim place; his wife, who is somewhat older than he is, also lives on the same place. To John J. Heim and wife the following children were born: Elizabeth, who married Samuel Heim, of Grant precinct, this county; Jacob S., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Anna Stoltz, who lives in Porter precinct; Mrs. Mary Stratton, who lives in Brownville, this state; Israel L., of Grant precinct, on the old Heim homestead; William, who lives in Phoenix, Arizona, and Lucy, who married W. Draper, Manila, Iowa.

As stated above, Jacob S. Heim was sixteen years old when he came with his parents to this county in 1882. For a period of five years he attended the Dawson district schools and on leaving school he worked for his father on the farm for several years, or up to the time of his marriage. He then moved to his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he bought from his father. On this land he has made many valuable improvements and in 1914 built a modern house at a cost of fifty-five hundred dollars, and which is one of the most substantial residences in Grant precinct. It is equipped with furnace, hot and cold water, gas lights and other features that go to make up a comfortable home. In 1907 he erected a substantially built barn, thirty-two by thirty-eight feet, and in other ways has kept abreast of requirements making for efficiency in his farming operations.

On March 17, 1892, Jacob S. Heim was united in marriage to Rebecca



Heim, who was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Jacob G. and Regenia (Gross) Heim, further mention of whom is to be found in a sketch relating to Joseph G. Heim, of Dawson, which appears in another part of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob S. Heim are the parents of two children, namely, Verna, who was graduated from Dawson high school in 1913 and now living with her parents, and Elma, who attends the district school.

Mr. and Mrs. Heim and their children are members of the United Evangelical church and are earnest attendants on its services. Mr. Heim is a warm supporter of the Republican party and is now serving on district No. 92 school board, and has been treasurer of the same since 1901, his interest in educational affairs being generally recognized throughout the county.

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### BERNARD RILEY.

One of the oldest native-born residents of Richardson county is Bernard Riley, who, after a successful and very active career as a general farmer is now living in retirement in Dawson. He was born, April 12, 1861, in West Muddy precinct, this county, being the first white child born in that precinct that is now living in Richardson county. He is of Celtic descent, and a son of Michael and Mary (O'Brien) Riley. Michael Riley was born in Ireland in 1826, but left his native land when a young man, crossed the Atlantic in an old-fashioned sailing vessel in 1847 and took up farming in the state of New Jersey. In 1859 he penetrated to the interior of our continent, locating in Richardson county, Nebraska, having made the long trip to St. Louis on the railroad, and from there by steamboat up the Missouri river to Rulo, Nebraska, from which place he drove out to the land on which he located in West Muddy precinct, buying one hundred and sixty acres for which he paid eight hundred dollars. He set to work in usual pioneer fashion, built a log cabin and turned the wild prairie sod with a team of oxen and soon had crops growing. His nearest market was Brownville. This was still the domain of the Indians, but they never molested him, the "Jayhawkers" giving him far more trouble than the red men. Later in life he recalled many interesting incidents of that primitive period here. He took one of his first crops of wheat to Brownville, for which he received two dollars and fifty cents per bushel, and with the proceeds bought his first high-wheeled wagon, for which he paid one hundred and ten dollars. Once, during the winter

following the close of the Civil War he drove a number of fat hogs, in company with his neighbors, who also took along their porkers, a distance of twenty-five miles to Aspinwall, Crawford county, Iowa. A severe snow storm overtook them while on the way and the hogs began piling up and the men had hard work saving their swine. The blizzard was so severe that large fires had to be built to keep the drovers from freezing. Michael Riley became a successful farmer, owning a good farm two and one-half miles northeast of Dawson, where he died in 1886. His wife, Mary O'Brien, was born in Ireland in 1830. She worked hard helping her husband get a start in the new country and for some time she kept a boarding house, feeding the graders who worked on the Burlington railroad when it was being built through this county and later fed the train crews. Her death occurred in 1894. Both these parents were members of the Catholic church. They helped organize one of the school districts in Grant precinct, where they settled after the close of the Civil War. Their family consisted of seven children, namely: Daniel, who lives on the old homestead in Grant precinct; James is deceased; William lives in Grant township; Bernard, of this sketch; Michael lives in Grant township; Mrs. Mary Clancy lives at Dawson, this county, and Anna, who died in infancy.

Bernard Riley grew up on the home farm, and, like all pioneer boys, found plenty of hard work to do. He attended the early-day district schools, then studied at the St. Benedict College, Atchison, Kansas. He and his brothers remained on the old farm for a number of years. In 1890 he began working in the flouring-mill at Dawson, and later was manager of the mill for a period of seven years. He then went to western Nebraska and operated a cattle ranch in Deuel county. After selling out there he went to Cherry county, this state, and continued in the ranching business for eight years, after which he returned to Dawson, where his family had remained during his absence in the western part of the state. He owns a valuable and well-improved farm of four hundred and eighty acres near Dawson, eighty acres in Washington county, Kansas, and one hundred and sixty acres in Canada. He managed well and has made a pronounced success as a farmer and stockman. He built his present attractive home in Dawson in 1906. It is of brick veneer and contains seven rooms and stands on a hill in the east part of town. It has all modern improvements. Mr. Riley is a shareholder in the local electric light and telephone companies.

Mr. Riley was married in August, 1901, to Mary Riley, a daughter of Daniel and Ellen (Ryan) Riley, both natives of Ireland, from which country



they came to America in their earlier career and located in Richardson county. Their daughter, Mary, was born in September, 1869, in Grant township, where she grew to womanhood and was educated, her parents owning a good farm a mile east of Dawson. Her father is deceased, but her mother, aged seventy-eight years, is living with Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Riley, of this review. Three children have been born to Bernard Riley and wife, namely: Michael, Ellen and Mary, all at home.

Politically, Mr. Riley is an independent Democrat. He belongs to the Catholic church. He is well known throughout the county.

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### SAMUEL BOOK BOBST.

Richardson county bears the prideful distinction of having within its borders and claiming as one of its best-known and most honored citizens the oldest continuous resident of the great state of Nebraska. When, at the annual meeting of pioneers of Nebraska held at Lincoln on January 10 and 11, 1917, the large cake which is usually prepared as an award of honor to the state's oldest surviving pioneer was presented to Samuel Book Bobst, of Humboldt, there was general rejoicing throughout this county and Mr. Bobst was made the recipient of the unanimous congratulations of this whole community, for the honor that had come to him was well merited. Not only is Mr. Bobst the premier pioneer of Nebraska, but his father was the first judge of Richardson county and was the first postmaster in the region now comprised within the bounds of this county, he having "kept" the postoffice at Pleasant Valley on the old trail, back in the middle fifties, during the time of the very beginning of a social order out here on the then frontier of civilization.

Samuel Book Bobst, a well-known and well-to-do building contractor at Humboldt, an honored veteran of the Civil War and from the days of his boyhood actively identified with the interests of this state, is a native son of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Nebraska since he was ten years of age, having come here with his parents in the year in which the vast territory theretofore known as the Indian country became formally recognized by the government as Nebraska Territory, extending from Texas on the south to Canada on the north and to the Rockies on the west. He was born on March 28, 1844, at Rushville, in Fairfield county, Ohio, son of Christian and Sarah (Book) Bobst, natives, respectively, of the state of Pennsyl-

vania and of the state of Maryland, who had located at Rushville, where Christian Bobst engaged in the mercantile business and also became a farmer and landowner. In January, 1854, Christian Bobst disposed of his interests in Ohio and determined to establish a home out here in the then Indian country. The trip with his family was long and toilsome, but was finally accomplished and the pioneer "pitched his tent" in a favored section in the southwest corner of what later came to be organized as Richardson county, on the Pawnee county line, and there established his home. He pre-empted a tract of land, paying for the same one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre, and put up a log cabin on the same and there installed his family. That old pioneer log cabin, which occupies a spot just over the line in Pawnee county, is still standing and remains an object of much interest to the present generation. Nebraska Territory was set apart by the government in that year and Christian Bobst was appointed first judge of the district and was also appointed postmaster, the postoffice established in his little log cabin being given the pleasing name of Pleasant Valley. The first election held in this district and over which Judge Bobst presided, was held at Archer and there were but nineteen votes cast at the same. The Indians still were numerous hereabout at that time, but were friendly and displayed no inclination to give the settlers trouble. St. Joseph was the nearest market in those days and the chief subsistence of the pioneers was cornmeal and game, of which latter there, happily, was no end, and Mr. Bobst still recollects the great sport he had hunting out here in the days of his boyhood, when game of a wide variety was so common that his youthful prowess with a gun was easily rewarded. Judge Bobst was just beginning to see his way clear to the development of a fine piece of property on his pioneer farm when death brought his labors to a close in 1859, five years after his arrival here. He left his widow with three children in her care, the subject of this sketch then having had a brother, Robert, who was killed at Blue River, Missouri, during the Civil War, while serving as a member of the Second Colorado Regiment, and a sister, Martha, who married William Emigh and is now deceased, Mr. Bobst now being the sole survivor of the twelve children born to his parents.

As noted above, Samuel B. Bobst was ten years of age when he came out here from Ohio with his parents and he has been a resident of Nebraska ever since, now the dean of the pioneers of this state. He had begun his schooling back in Ohio and when a school presently was established in the neighborhood of his home, upon the coming of other settlers to that section, he entered that school. A week later, however, the pioneer school house was destroyed by fire, and that ended the "term." He later entered Professor



McKinsey's school at Pawnee City, but when the Civil War broke out he lost interest in schooling and on November 1, 1862, he then being but eighteen years of age, he enlisted for service as a member of Company G, Second Nebraska Cavalry, and with that command went to the front, continuing with the same until his discharge on December 14, 1863, his term of enlistment being at an end. He straightway re-enlisted as a member of Company G, Sixteenth Kansas Cavalry, and with that command served until the close of the war, the greater part of that service having been scout duty in Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas and in the campaigns directed against Price and Quantrell. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Bobst returned home and resumed his place on the farm, at the same time turning his attention to carpenter work and in 1872 entered the employ of the Atchison & Nebraska railroad and was engaged in building depots and section houses along the line of that road until the line was taken over by the Burlington. In 1873 he married and settled at Firth, on the line between Gage and Lancaster counties, where he became engaged as a building contractor and there remained for about six years, or until 1878, when he moved over to Sterling, in Johnson county, and was there further engaged in contracting until 1881, when he came back to his home county and located at Humboldt, where he ever since has been very successfully engaged in the general building and contracting line, one of the best-known building contractors in Richardson county. Mr. Bobst is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office. He is a past commander of William Mix Post No. 66, Grand Army of the Republic, and has for years taken an active part in the affairs of that patriotic organization. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the local lodges of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order of United Workmen and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these organizations.

It was on December 7, 1873, that Samuel Book Bobst was united in marriage to Susan Plummer, who was born at Piqua, Ohio, May 10, 1858, daughter of James and Maria (Judkins) Plummer, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of western Virginia. Mrs. Plummer died in 1869 and the next year, 1870, James Plummer and his four daughters, Susan, Emma, Luella and Fannie, came to Nebraska and settled near Firth. Emma Plummer married David F. Stewart and is now deceased. Luella Plummer married Charles Ross and is now living at Goodland, Kansas, and Fannie Plummer married Charles Feldcamp and is now living at Chicago. Mr. and

Mrs. Bobst have one child, a son, William E., born on September 21, 1876. William E. Bobst, a traveling salesman, now living at Spencer, Iowa, married Amber Silverstoff and has one child, a daughter, Juanita, now nine years of age.

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### WILLIAM STEELE POWER

The name of William Steele Power, one of the leading agriculturists and stockmen of Richardson county, needs no introduction to the readers of this history, for his long and useful life record in Richardson county speaks for itself. He was born on March 12, 1842, near New Bloomfield, Perry county, Pennsylvania. He is a son of John and Sarah (Steele) Power. The mother was a sister of Joseph Steele, a pioneer of Falls City, whose grandson, Robert Steele, lives on the old Steele home place near Falls City. John and Sarah Power were natives of Pennsylvania. He was born in 1802 and died in 1862; she was born in 1811 and died in 1882. Mr. Power, of this sketch, is of Scotch Presbyterian stock. To John Power and wife eight children were born, an equal number of sons and daughters, namely: Mrs. Harriet Bailey, living in Spokane, Washington; William S., of this sketch; John and Chester, living in Humboldt, Nebraska; Charles, who died at Humboldt in 1911, and his widow is living on the home farm near there.

William S. Power grew to manhood in his native state and attended the common schools and the old Wyoming Seminary in Pennsylvania, being a classmate of Mrs. Martha Weaver, of Falls City. He remained in the East until 1870, when he made his first trip to Falls City, Nebraska, spending two years there, during which time he helped haul lumber from Brownville for the Steele dwelling. In February, 1864, he enlisted in the Union army for service in the Civil War, and served until in August, 1865, in the signal corps, having been assigned to the department of West Virginia. He was in many dangerous positions and performed his duties very faithfully and ably. He carried messages to General Sheridan at the battle of Winchester, where Sheridan made his famous ride and turned defeat into victory, which ride has been immortalized by the poem of Thomas Buchanan Read. Mr. Power also served under Sheridan at the battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia, also at New Market and Piedmont, also at Hunter's Raid at Lynchburg. He was also with the army in its raid throughout the Shenandoah Valley.

After his career in the army Mr. Power returned home and operated





MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM S. POWER.





the old home place for a period of fourteen years, being at the head of the family. In 1880 he came to Nebraska again and settled on the farm he now owns in Humboldt precinct, which consists of two hundred and forty acres. He has a productive and highly improved farm, one of the most desirable in the precinct. His large attractive home was built on a commanding height, overlooking the beautiful Nemaha Valley. He also owns a good farm in western Nebraska. For two years after he purchased this farm he lived in the old Hull House, erecting his present home in 1882, living in a rude shack while it was being built. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stockman. In his partnership with his brothers he has long been engaged in buying and shipping live stock. They are the most extensive dealers in live stock in Richardson county, and they handle more sheep than any other firm in Southeastern Nebraska. They handled over twenty thousand head of sheep in the spring of 1917; they sell most of their sheep to feeders and sometimes have as many as ten thousand sheep on hand at one time. They do business under the firm name of Power Brothers.

Mr. Power was married on January 15, 1880, to Edith Sands, who was born on April 26, 1862, near Bloomfield, Perry county, Pennsylvania. She is a daughter of Ephraim P. Sands, who was born in Pennsylvania, in 1831, and died February 3, 1865. He served during the Civil War in the One Hundred and Eighty-sixth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, while in the service. According to Captain Woodruff of Company E, in which he served, Mr. Sands was a brave and efficient soldier. His wife, Susan Slade, was born in 1833, and died on April 1, 1904. They were parents of five children, namely: John M., who died October 7, 1866; Clement P. lives in Halifax, Pennsylvania; George Hayes makes his home in the West; Edith, who became the wife of Mr. Power, of this sketch, and William E., who died in 1864.

The following children have been born to William S. Power and wife: William Hull, born on October 8, 1880, lives on the home place and married Hallie Vaught, and they have four children, William, Leonard, Loree and Charles. George D. Power, born on October 14, 1888, lives in Oregon, married Maude Goolsby, of Dawson, Nebraska, and they have two children, Sarah Edith and Zella. Irene, only daughter of the subject of this sketch, died in 1890 at the age of eight years.

Mrs. Power was left an orphan when quite young, and she was clothed,

educated and cared for by the state of Pennsylvania at the Soldiers Orphans Home at Loysville, Pennsylvania, until she was sixteen years of age.

Politically, Mr. Power is a Democrat. Although always a very busy man he has found time to take an interest in public affairs, serving one term as justice of the peace, also as a member of the school board in his district. Fraternally, he belongs to the Knights of Pythias at Humboldt, and he is a member of William Mix Post, No. 66, Grand Army of the Republic, and was adjutant of the post for a period of fifteen years. He has always stood ready to aid in any movement having for its object the general welfare of his precinct and county, throughout which he is known as a man of true public spirit and unswerving honesty.

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### JOSIAH FRANK RELF.

Josiah Frank Relf, public surveyor of Richardson county and one of the most widely recognized drainage experts in this part of the state, is a native of the neighboring state of Missouri, but has been a resident of Nebraska since he was eight years of age and of Richardson county since he was twelve. He was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Maysville, county seat of Dekalb county, Missouri, March 21, 1881, son of Thomas A. and Sarah (Peniston) Relf, natives of the state of Indiana and both of English descent, the former a son of Josiah Relf, who was born in England.

Thomas A. Relf was married in Indiana and remained there until 1879, when he came west and settled on a claim near Edmond, Norton county, Kansas. In 1880 he moved to Missouri and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Maysville, in Dekalb county, presently moving from there to Neosho county, Kansas, whence, in 1888, he came with his family to this state and located at Brownville, in Nemaha county, where he remained until 1893, in which year he moved down into Richardson county with his family and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Salem. There Mrs. Relf died in 1904 and Mr. Relf shortly afterward went to Columbus, Kansas, in the neighborhood of which place he is now living on a farm. To him and his wife the following children were born: Charles Walter, a farmer, living near Columbus, Kansas; Mrs. Nellie Otta Mullen, of Mountain Park, Oklahoma; Josiah Frank, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Rosa Mullen, living near Harrison, Arkansas; William, a farmer near Columbus, Kansas; Benjamin, a farmer



in that same vicinity, and Sarah and Golda, who are at home with their father.

Josiah F. Relf was about twelve years of age when he came to this county with his parents and he grew to manhood on the home farm in the vicinity of Salem, from the days of his early boyhood an able assistant to his father in the labors of improving and developing the home place. His schooling in his early years was neglected and he did not enter the eighth grade of the high school at Salem until after he was twenty-one years of age, when he began to recognize the importance of acquiring a higher education. After going to school there for three years he entered the state normal school at Peru, with a view to fitting himself for teaching, and was in attendance there two years, working his way through school by doing chores for residents of that town and by working in a brick yard for his room and board. During his school vacation he became engaged as a solicitor and in this line did so well that he earned enough money to carry him through the College of Civil Engineering at the State University, which he entered in 1907. During the years 1910 and 1911 he worked as an engineer and in 1912 finished his course at the university and was graduated as a civil engineer. Following his graduation he was employed as deputy county surveyor of Lancaster county and late in the summer of that same year was appointed to fill an unexpired term in the office of the county surveyor of Richardson county, performing his duties in that connection so faithfully and so admirably that he was elected to that office in 1914 and was re-elected in 1916, therefore now serving what may really be regarded as his third term in that important office. During his college course Mr. Relf specialized in drainage work and has come to be looked upon as an expert in that line of engineering. He assisted in putting through the big drainage project in Nemaha county in 1912-13, drainage district No. 3, at the same time having charge of drainage district No. 4, Richardson county, and is now in charge of drainage district No. 1, this county, doing an excellent work in extending the drainage system of this section of the state.

In March, 1910, Josiah F. Relf was united in marriage to Ida May Stevenson, of Lincoln, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Relf have a pleasant home at Falls City and take a proper part in the general social and cultural activities of their home town. They are members of the Presbyterian church and take an earnest part in church work and in the general good works of the community. Mr. Relf is a Republican and has given his thoughtful attention to local political affairs since the days of his boyhood.

## CHARLES F. WEICK.

Charles F. Weick, former treasurer of the precinct of Arago, this county, and one of the best-known farmers and stock breeders in that part of the county, owner of a fine farm in section 5 of Arago precinct, where he and his family are very comfortably situated, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of Richardson county since he was eleven years of age. He was born in Baden, Germany, on March 14, 1869, son of Karl and Elizabeth (Dast) Weick, also natives of Baden, the former born in 1838, who came to this country with their family in 1880 and proceeded on out to Nebraska and settled on a farm in the precinct of Arago, later moving up into the precinct of Barada, where Karl Weick bought a farm and established his home, but did not live long to take part in the development of the place, his death occurring there in 1883. His widow is now living in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in the seventy-eighth year of her age. Karl Weick and wife were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Louise, who married J. Werner and is living near Salem, this county; Albert, now a resident of Laramie, Wyoming; Max, also of Laramie; Emma, wife of H. Ahlers, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Henry, deceased.

As noted above, Charles F. Weick was but eleven years of age when he came to this country with his parents and settled in this county. He completed his schooling here and on account of the death of his father so soon after locating here, much of the responsibility of looking after the affairs of the farm early fell upon his youthful shoulders, he being the eldest of the children. After a time he rented a farm and began farming on his own account and in 1900 bought his first farm, the well-kept tract of ninety acres in section 5 of Arago precinct on which he is now living and where he has made extensive improvements. This farm has the advantage of having on it fifteen acres of natural timber and is one of the desirable tracts in that section. In 1911 Mr. Weick began breeding horses and has done very well. He makes a specialty of Percherons and has done much to improve the strain of horse flesh throughout the county. He paid seven hundred and fifty dollars for one of his stallions, the three-year-old "Champion 110978", bred in Iowa, and has won several first prizes at one time and another at the Falls City horse shows. He also is a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs and his herd leaders are registered animals. Mr. Weick is a Republican and for four years served as treasurer of his home precinct.

On October 18, 1894, Charles W. Weick was united in marriage to Min-



nie Ruegge, who was born in this county on May 23, 1871, daughter of Fred W. and Dora (Hoose) Ruegge, natives of Germany, who are now living in the precinct of Arago, this county, and to this union four children have been born, Fred, Edith, Elmer and Laura, all of whom are at home. The Weicks are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper part in church work and in the general social activities of their home community. Mr. Weick is a member of the local lodge of the Woodmen of the World at Barada and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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### JOHN O'GRADY.

John O'Grady, one of Richardson county's best-known and most progressive farmers and the proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in the Dawson neighborhood in Grant precinct, is a New Englander by birth, but has been a resident of this county since he was six years of age, his parents having settled here in 1870. He was born in Connecticut on April 27, 1864, son of Hugh and Margaret (Connor) O'Grady, natives of Ireland, who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, both the O'Gradys and the Connors settling in Connecticut. Hugh O'Grady became a sailor and followed the sea for twelve years. Hugh O'Grady and Margaret Connor were married in Connecticut and after their marriage continued living in that state until 1870, when they came to Nebraska and settled on a farm in the neighborhood of that on which the subject of this sketch now lives. Hugh O'Grady was a good farmer and developed a fine piece of property out of the uncultivated tract he bought upon coming out here. His wife, who was born in 1839, died in 1899 and he still survives her, now making his home at Dawson. He was born in 1838. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, eight sons and four daughters, four of whom were born in Connecticut and the remainder in this county, namely: John, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Frank, of Dawson; James, who is in business in Dawson; Hugh, who is farming over the line in the neighboring county of Brown, Kansas; Mary, deceased; Mrs. Kate Riley, of Dawson; Patrick, a farmer, of Grant precinct; Daniel, deceased; Nellie, deceased; Joseph, a farmer, living at Dawson; Margaret, also of Dawson, and Dominick, a farmer, also living in Grant precinct.

Having been but a child when he came to this county from his native

Connecticut with his parents, John O'Grady grew to manhood on the home farm in the vicinity of Dawson, receiving his schooling in the local schools, and remained on the home farm, a valuable assistant to his father and brothers in the labors of developing and improving the same, until his marriage in 1888, when he rented a farm and began farming on his own account, remaining on that place until 1898, when he bought a quarter of a section of practically unimproved land, part of his father's place, in that same neighborhood and there established his home and has ever since made that his place of residence. As he prospered in his undertakings he added an adjoining "eighty" and now has a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres and one of the best farm plants in the Dawson neighborhood, the excellent manner in which the place is kept up testifying to the progressive and up-to-date methods adopted by the owner. Mr. O'Grady has erected a handsome, modern residence on his place and his ample barns and other farm buildings are in keeping with the same.

On April 23, 1888, John O'Grady was united in marriage to Johanna Clancy, who was born on a farm in the immediate neighborhood of Dawson, this county, May 2, 1871, a daughter of Patrick and Johanna Clancy, natives of Ireland, who upon coming to this country located at Salem, New Jersey, where they remained until in January, 1871, when they came to Nebraska and settled on a farm in this county, pioneers of the Dawson settlement, and developed a fine piece of property there. Mrs. Clancy, who was born in 1843, died on that farm in September, 1903, and Mr. Clancy, who was born in 1840, survived until in March, 1913. They were the parents of eight children, those besides Mrs. O'Grady, the third in order of birth, being as follow: Mrs. Margaret Zimmerman, of Lincoln, this state; Mrs. Mary O'Grady, of Dawson; Mrs. Kate O'Connell, living on a farm near Dawson; Michael, deceased; Mrs. Nora Cummings, of Grant precinct; Alice, deceased, and Nellie, deceased.

To John and Johanna (Clancy) O'Grady ten children have been born, namely: Mary, who died at the age of eighteen months; Anastacia, wife of Michael Tiehen, a farmer, living south of Dawson; Hugh, a farmer of Grant precinct; Josephine, a teacher in the public schools of this county, now teaching a district school south of Salem, and Patrick, Michael, Margaret, Daniel and Bernard, who are still at home. The O'Gradys are earnest members of the Catholic church and take an interested part in parish affairs, as well as in the general good works and social activities of their home community. Mr. O'Grady is a Democrat and takes a proper interest in political



affairs, but has not been an office seeker. He is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus at Falls City and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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### LOUIS W. NOFSGER.

Louis W. Nofsger, one of the careful tillers of the soil in Nemaha precinct, was born in Speiser precinct, this county, May 6, 1888, a son of Jacob and Rosa (Spahr) Nofsger. Jacob Nofsger was born near Springfield, Ohio, December 25, 1860, and there he grew to manhood and attended school. He came to Nebraska about 1882, and bought a farm in Speiser precinct, Richardson county, which he operated until his death in 1905, during which period of nearly a quarter of a century he was ranked among the leading general farmers of his vicinity. He was a Democrat, a member of the German Reformed church, and belonged to the Modern Woodmen of America. His widow, also a native of Ohio, was born on January 15, 1862, is still living, now making her home at Humboldt, this county. The following children were born to Jacob and Rosa Nofsger: John, who lives in Humboldt, Nebraska; Emma, who married Otto Gergelman, and is now deceased; Fred, who lives in Humboldt; Louis W., the subject of this sketch; Samuel, who is farming in Speiser township, and Elizabeth of Humboldt.

Louis W. Nofsger was reared on the home farm and received his education in the district schools. He began farming for himself in 1912 on rented land and, in 1915, he bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 1, Nemaha precinct and has become well launched in his life work while yet a young man, giving promise of eventually ranking among the best farmers of the county. He has made a number of improvements on his place, including the erection of a modern home and a good barn. In connection with general farming he raises graded Shorthorn cattle.

On February 28, 1912, Louis W. Nofsger was married to Pearl Seitz, who was born on October 21, 1887, at Humboldt. She grew to womanhood and was educated in the common schools of Humboldt, and in the Peru State Normal, after which she taught school. She is a daughter of Samuel and Arminda (Holder) Nofsger, natives of Illinois and early settlers of Richardson county, who are both now deceased. Two children have been

born to Mr. and Mrs. Nofsger, Howard Louis, deceased, and Wilma R., whose birth occurred on May 14, 1915.

Mr. Nofsger is a Republican, but is not a biased partisan, being inclined to vote independently. He and Mrs. Nofsger are members of the United Brethren church.

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### ELIJAH T. LIBBEE.

Elijah T. Libbee, one of the real "old-timers" of Richardson county, an honored veteran of the Civil War and a substantial farmer, proprietor of a well-kept farm of one hundred and thirty acres south of Dawson, in the precinct of Grant, where he has made his home for more than half a century, is a native of the great Empire state and was reared in Illinois, but has been a resident of this county since 1865, having come out here in territorial days. He was born on a farm in Allegany county, New York, February 27, 1842, son of Truman L. and Martha Amelia (Angel) Libbee, natives, respectively, of Vermont and England, who were married in Steuben county, New York, and later moved to Allegany county, same state, where they remained until 1855, in which year they moved to Illinois and settled on a farm in Schuyler county, that state.

Truman L. Libbee remained in Illinois until 1864, in which year he moved with his father and mother to Utah, but two years later left that territory and came to Nebraska, settling in this county. He pre-empted a tract of land in section 22 of the precinct of Grant and proceeded to improve and develop the same, remaining there until 1876, in which year his father died and he returned to Utah, where he remained with his widowed mother until her death. He then returned to this county, but after a sometime further residence here, retired from the farm and moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he spent his last days. He and his wife were the parents of four children, the subject of this sketch having had two brothers, Marshall, a veteran of the Civil War, now deceased, and Albert, now living at Lansing, Michigan, and a sister, Mrs. Martha White-Berry, who died in 1915. Marshall Libbee also was a pioneer of Richardson county and his last days were spent at Dawson.

Elijah T. Libbee was about thirteen years of age when his parents moved from New York to Illinois and in their state he grew to manhood, receiving his schooling in the schools of Schuyler county, and was living there when the Civil War broke out. On October 14, 1861, he enlisted for service





ELIJAH T. LIBBEE.





as a member of Company D, First Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry, the engineering regiment of the Army of the West, and served with that command until his discharge, on a physician's certificate of disability, in a hospital at St. Louis in May, 1863. Mr. Libbee was in the engineering service and served in Missouri, Tennessee and Mississippi, during that period of service having participated in the siege of Island No. 10, the battle of New Madrid, the siege of Corinth and in the campaign through Mississippi. At Memphis he was taken ill with lung fever and for five months was confined to hospital there, later being transferred to the hospital at St. Louis, where he presently received his discharge.

Upon the completion of his military service Elijah T. Libbee returned to Illinois, where he was married in the spring of 1864. He continued to make his home there until 1865, when he and his wife came to the then Territory of Nebraska and settled on a farm on the north side of the Nemaha river, in the neighborhood of the present town of Dawson, this county. A year later Mr. Libbee moved down to the south side of the river, entered there the tract of land on which he is now living and has ever since lived there, a period of more than fifty-two years, during which time he has seen this region develop from its wilderness state to its present highly-organized and prosperous condition as one of the most thriving agricultural regions in the West. It did not take Mr. Libbee long to get his land under cultivation and he had a good start there before the days of the grasshopper visitations that discouraged so many of the later settlers. He has continually added to the improvements on his home place and has long had one of the well-kept farms in that part of the county, though his active participation in the labors of the farm in recent years have been mainly confined to a directing capacity. Though now well past seventy-five years of age Mr. Libbee retains his physical vigor to a remarkable degree and still reads without the artificial aid of glasses. He is a Republican, his first vote having been cast for Abraham Lincoln, and ever since coming to this county has taken an earnest interest in local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office. He is an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Dawson, taking a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization, and is also affiliated with the lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at that place, one of the oldest Odd Fellows in that part of the county.

On April 3, 1864, in Schuyler county, Illinois, Elijah T. Libbee was united in marriage to Mrs. Nancy Emily Davis, who died in 1895, at the age of fifty-three years. To that union eleven children were born, as follow: Mrs.

Mina Warren, who lives east of Barada in this county; Mrs. Adella Hogue, who lives south of her father's place in Grant precinct; Mrs. Amanda Pool, living east of Barada; Levi, who is now living in the state of Wyoming; Marion, a resident of the state of Washington; Mrs. Emma Ingram, who, with her husband, continues to live on the old home place; Willis, deceased; Fred, who is at home; Burt, of Elkhorn, this state, and two who died in infancy. Marion Libbee, now living in Washington, was a member of Colonel Bryan's regiment, the famous Third Nebraska, during the Spanish-American War and with that regiment saw service in Cuba.

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### FREDERICK WITTWER.

The late Frederick Wittwer, an honored veteran of the Civil War and at the time of his death at his fine farm home on Spring creek, in the precinct of Nemaha, in 1909, one of the most extensive landowners in Richardson county, was a native of the republic of Switzerland, but had been a resident of this country since he was eleven years of age and of the West since the days of his young manhood, having come out here before the days of the Civil War, he and his brother, Gottlieb, having been among the earliest settlers in the precinct of Nemaha in this county. After serving for more than three years as a soldier of the Union during the Civil War Frederick Wittwer returned to this county and after his marriage in 1868 established his permanent home on Spring creek. Since his death his widow has been making her home at Salem, where she is very comfortably situated.

Frederick Wittwer was born on April 3, 1840, and was eleven years of age when his parents, John Wittwer and wife, left their home in Werniss, Switzerland, and came with their family to this country in 1851, locating in Tuscarawas county, Ohio. There Frederick Wittwer grew to young manhood, remaining there until the late fifties, when he and his brother, Gottlieb Wittwer, came West with a view to establishing themselves as farmers in the then Territory of Nebraska, which at that time comprised all the former Indian country from the Territory of Kansas north to the Dominion line and west to the Rockies. They liked the appearance of things in this county and took over a quarter of a section of land on Spring creek, in the precinct of Nemaha, paying down on the purchase price of the same the not extravagant sum of fifty dollars and assuming obligations for the balance, and were engaged in improving and developing the place when the Civil War broke



out. On April 5, 1862, Frederick Wittwer enlisted for service in the Union army as a private in Company G, Thirteenth Regiment, Kansas Volunteer Infantry, and with that command went to the front, serving until the close of the war, and received his final discharge at Little Rock on June 26, 1865, a period of service covering something more than three years and two months, during a part of which time he was attached to the commissary and transport service as a mule driver. Mr. Wittwer participated in the chase of Price's command through Missouri and Arkansas and he was in several of the most notable engagements of the campaign in the Southwest, including the battles of Westport and Cape Girardeau. His brother, Christian Wittwer, also was a soldier of the Union, serving in an Ohio regiment, and was a participant in the great battle of Shiloh.

Upon the completion of his military service in the summer of 1865 Frederick Wittwer returned to this county and here resumed the pursuits of peace, engaging actively in the work of developing his land on Spring creek. After his marriage in the spring of 1868 he established his home on Spring creek and as he prospered gradually added largely to his holdings until he presently came to be recognized as one of the leading land speculators in this county and a citizen of much substantial worth, at the time of his death he and his wife owning four hundred and eleven acres in their home farm, five hundred and forty acres four and one-half miles west of Salem and three thousand one hundred and thirteen acres in Greeley county, this state, besides other interests of a valuable character. Mr. Wittwer was originally a Republican, but later espoused the cause of the Democrats and for years took an active part in local politics, for some time serving as assessor of the precinct of Nemaha, as a school director and in other local capacities, ever doing his duty as a good citizen. He was a member of the German Reformed church, as is his widow, and was an active participant in local good works. He was an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and ever took a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization. During the great land rush into Oklahoma in 1889 Mr. Wittwer joined the "race" and came out with a fine quarter-section claim. He died at his home on Spring creek on January 1, 1909, being then in the sixty-ninth year of his age, and not long after his death his widow moved to Salem, where she is now living. In the spring of 1916 she sold one of her farms and then divided the estate among her children, though retaining in her own right five hundred and forty acres of land. Mrs. Wittwer is a very capable manager and is quite well circumstanced.

It was on April 19, 1868, that Frederick Wittwer was united in mar-

riage to Mary Ann Stalder, who was born in Fulton county, Ohio, on July 30, 1851, a daughter of Jacob and Mary Ann (Fankhauser) Stalder, natives of the republic of Switzerland, who left their home in Bern and came to this country, settling in Ohio, where they remained until in March, 1865, when they came to Nebraska with their family and settled on a farm ten miles west of Salem, where they spent the remainder of their lives, substantial pioneers of that community. To Frederick and Mary Ann (Stalder) Wittwer were born fourteen children, namely: Edward, a substantial farmer of the precinct of Nemaha; William, of Las Lunas, New Mexico; Charles, of Nemaha precinct; Mrs. Rosa Porr, of that same precinct; Henry, now a resident of Kansas; Joseph, of the precinct of Nemaha; Hiram, of that same precinct; Peter, a resident of Greeley county, this state; Isaac, of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Louis, of the precinct of Nemaha; Elizabeth, a professional musician, who is now making her home at Los Angeles, California; Rachel, a teacher in the schools of North Platte, this state; Salome, who is at home with her mother at Salem, and Viola, who received her education at Brownell Hall College at Omaha and is also at home.

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#### FREDRICK BUCHER, SR.

Fredrick Bucher, Sr., one of Richardson county's most substantial ranchmen and the proprietor of a fine place of more than six hundred acres in the old Middleburg section of Speiser township, is a native of the republic of Switzerland, but has been a resident of this country and of this county since 1881 and has done exceedingly well since entering upon his farming operations here. He was born in the canton of Bern on August 23, 1849, son of Fredrick and Mary Bucher, also natives of Switzerland, who spent all their lives in their native land. Fredrick Bucher was a miller, as was his father before him, and the old mill is still being operated there, now under the direction of his other son, John.

Reared in his native Switzerland, Fredrick Bucher grew up to the life of the mill and became an expert miller. In 1871 he married Louise Marmett, also a native of Switzerland, born in 1847, and after his marriage continued working in the mill and presently became manager of the same, operating it for five years, at the end of which time it became necessary for him to give way to his brother, who is still operating the mill, and look for another place. Seeing no opening there to his liking he decided to come to



the United States and make a new home in the West, regarding which he had heard much as the land of opportunity. Disposing of his interests in Switzerland he came to this country in 1881, arriving here with about four thousand dollars, and six months later bought the place on which he is now living and where he has lived ever since, never having had cause to regret the decision that prompted him to come to Nebraska.

Upon coming to this county Mr. Bucher looked about a bit and on December 9, 1881, bought two hundred and forty acres of land owned by George Gerdes, who was then keeping the postoffice at "Middleburg", in Speiser township and who had erected on the place a small frame house. In that house Mr. Bucher and his family settled down and proceeded to develop the farm. It was necessary for Mr. Bucher to assume somewhat of a debt on taking possession of the place, but he had a stout heart and had no doubt of his ability to discharge the obligation. From the very beginning of his operations there he was successful and it was not long until he was able to begin enlarging his land holdings, and this he kept up until now he is the owner of six hundred and twenty-two acres, one of the best-kept ranches in that part of the county, his eldest son, Frederick, now being the practical manager of the ranch, Mr. Bucher some time ago having practically retired from the active labors of the place. He has a fine eleven-room house on the place, a great improvement over the little postoffice building in which he first had his home there, and his great barn and extensive hay and cattle sheds, together with the other improvements of the place are in keeping. In 1898 Mr. Bucher made a trip back to his old home in Switzerland on a visit to his brother and sisters, but was quite content to return to his home in Richardson county and is equally content to spend the rest of his life in this country.

Mr. and Mrs. Bucher have two sons, Frederick and John Alfred, and a daughter, Louisa, the latter of whom is at home. The brothers own a quarter of a section of land in this county and a ranch of fourteen hundred acres over in Phelps county and are doing very well in their operations. Frederick Bucher married Lucy Hunzeker and has six children, Gertrude, Leo, Erol, Margaret, Frederick and Marie. John A. Bucher married Sophia Eis and has one child, a son, Raymond. The Buchers are members of the Reformed church and take a proper part in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community, helpful in all proper ways in advancing the common welfare of the neighborhood in which they live. Mr. Bucher is a Republican, but votes independently in local politics, and ever since becoming a citizen of this country has given his earnest attention to political affairs.

## WILLIAM M. WEDDLE.

William M. Weddle, one of the best-known farmers and stockmen of the precinct of East Muddy in this county, is a native of the old Hoosier state, but has been a resident of Nebraska since he was nine years of age, having come here in 1872 with his parents from Illinois, to which state they had moved from Indiana some years previously. He was born on a farm in the vicinity of Nashville, in Brown county, one of the most picturesque regions in all Hoosierdom, November 19, 1863, son of Lewis M. and Martha A. (Fleener) Weddle, both of whom were born in that same county, who became pioneers of Richardson county and here spent their last days, the former dying at the home of his son, the subject of this sketch, in the fall of 1915.

Lewis M. Weddle, an honored veteran of the Civil War, who became one of the most substantial pioneers of Richardson county, was born in Brown county, Indiana, October 6, 1842, and spent his boyhood on a farm. On February 5, 1863, at Nashville, the county seat of his home county, he married Martha A. Fleener and established his home on a farm in Brown county. The next year, in August, 1864, he enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War and was honorably discharged in 1865. The next year, in 1866, he moved with his family to Vermillion county, Illinois, and remained there until 1872, when he moved to Nebraska and located near Nebraska City. After the drought of 1874 he came down into Richardson county and located near Shubert, in which section of the county he spent the remainder of his life. At first he lived northeast of Shubert, but about a quarter of a century ago he moved to the farm east of Stella, where his son, the subject of this sketch, now resides, and six years later moved to Shubert. In that village his wife died in 1908 and he afterward made his home with his son, William M. Weddle, in whose home he died on November 24, 1915. His body was interred in Prairie Union cemetery with Masonic ceremonies. Mr. Weddle had been a Mason since 1875. He also was a member of Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Woodmen of the World and was a member of the Christian church. Mr. Weddle took much pride in his family and each child received a substantial inheritance. He was especially proud of the little people of the family, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and made himself one of them, taking them about with him and spending long hours in visiting with them; during the later years of his life, for their enjoyment, ever having about him a liberal supply of candy and other "goodies." During the grasshopper invasion of 1875 Mr. Weddle gladly



would have abandoned his land prospects here and would have moved back to Illinois if he had had money enough to pay the freight on his small belongings, but he was compelled to "stick it out" and it is well that he did, for he presently began to prosper and he prospered largely, between 1876 and 1900 being regarded as one of the most extensive shippers of live stock hereabout, many times shipping train loads of cattle at a time. During his later years he turned the management of his farms over to his sons, but continued to the last to give considerable personal attention to the large mule-breeding industry he had built up and which his son, William M. Weddle, is still carrying on with much success. Mr. Weddle gave his earnest attention to local civic affairs and for some time served as county supervisor from his district. To Lewis M. Weddle and wife were born eleven children, all of whom are still living and of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: Selman, of Quincy, Illinois; Sarah, wife of George Brisby, of near Verdon, this county; Mrs. Almeda Lewis, north of Shubert; James A., southeast of Stella; Lenora, wife of Fred Colglazier, of Falls City; John F., of Stella; Walter J. and Oscar E., of western Nebraska; L. Walkup, residing southeast of Stella and Gertrude, wife of Samuel Harris, also living southeast of Stella, all of whom were with their father during the last week of his illness and were all present at his funeral.

As noted above, William M. Weddle was nine years of age when his parents came to Nebraska and he completed his schooling in the Walnut Grove school in the precinct of Barada. From the days of his boyhood he was an able assistant to his father in the labors of improving and developing the home place and when twenty-one years of age began farming on his own account on one of his father's farms up in Nemaha county, but in 1897 moved to the farm of two hundred acres, a part of his father's estate, where he is now living and where he ever since has made his home. He has made many substantial improvements on that place and has one of the best farm plants in the neighborhood. For years Mr. Weddle has given special attention to the breeding of mules and has done much to improve the strain of that valuable and hardy stock hereabout. Mr. Weddle is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office. He is a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

On September 1, 1884, William M. Weddle was united in marriage to Lydia A. Doman, who was born in Louisa county, Iowa, third in order of

birth of the eleven children born to John H. and Martha E. (Matthews) Doman, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Illinois, who came to this county in the spring of 1877 and continued to make their home here until their retirement from the farm and removal to Bonesteel, South Dakota, where they are now living, Mr. Doman being now (1917) seventy-six years of age and his wife, seventy-two. Mr. and Mrs. Weddle have three children, Lillie M., wife of Charles Hall, of the neighboring county of Nemaha; Charles S., of the precinct of Barada, and Anna L., who was born in 1907. The Weddles have a very pleasant home in East Muddy precinct and take an interested part in the general social activities of their home community.

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#### WILLIAM RILEY.

William Riley, extensive landowner and cattle breeder, may be classed among the pioneers in this part of the state of Nebraska, having lived here since the year after his birth, and by his industry has raised himself to be one of the substantial farmers of Richardson county. He was born near Salem, New Jersey, on September 27, 1858, the son of Michael and Mary (O'Brien) Riley, who landed at Rulo, this county, in 1859 and who were pioneers here for eight years before Nebraska was admitted to the Union.

Michael and Mary (O'Brien) Riley were married in 1853 in New Jersey and came to Nebraska Territory in 1859, coming on to Rulo, this county. They travelled by ox-team from the latter place to within three miles of Verdon, in Liberty precinct, and there Michael Riley secured a quarter section of land, having previously obtained a warrant from an old Mexican soldier, giving the right to enter the land. He bought a small house which he moved to his claim and here he and his wife and three sons and his brother-in-law, Thomas Farrell, and his wife and son made their home together. This house was destroyed a couple of weeks later by a tornado, but the scattered boards were gathered and with the addition of some new lumber they rebuilt the house. Michael Riley had two yoke of oxen and proceeded to break the land, soon having the same under cultivation. He sold out in 1864 and bought one hundred and twenty acres near Dawson, where he lived until 1884, when he became the owner of a tract of land northeast of Dawson and there spent the rest of his life. Michael and Mary Riley were the parents of seven children, namely: Daniel, who lives in Grant precinct; James, who died in Omaha in 1907; William; Bernard, the





MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM RILEY.





first of the family born in this county; Michael, who is farming the place on which his father died; Mary, who married M. J. Clancy, of Dawson, and Annie, who died in 1871. The parents of these children were born in County Tipperary, Ireland, the former in 1826 and the latter in 1830 and were married in this country, where Michael Riley came in 1847 and Mary O'Brien in 1851.

William Riley came to Richardson county with his parents when an infant of six months. He attended the district schools of his neighborhood and after finishing school, worked as a railroad section hand at Dawson for about one year. At the end of this period he helped his father on the farm. He and his brother worked together until the estate was settled, when he became heir to one hundred and sixty acres of prime land, on which there was only a small house. In 1911 he built a modern house of nine rooms, neatly painted white, and finished throughout with all conveniences necessary to domestic comfort. He also built a cattle, horse and hog barn, and everything around his farm is in excellent condition. Mr. Riley carried out the erection of all these buildings and effected the improvements at considerable cost; he set out a large grove of trees and planted evergreens on the north side of the buildings, which add much to the beauty of the farm. He is now the owner of five hundred acres of land, forming the home place, in section 13, Grant precinct; he has eighty acres in Liberty precinct and one hundred and twenty acres in Nemaha precinct. In addition to his farming activities he is engaged in raising Aberdeen Polled Angus cattle and has some choice strains of that breed.

William Riley has been twice married. In 1885 he was united in marriage to Johanna Fenton, a daughter of Jerry Fenton, and who was born in Virginia and died on July 22, 1889, aged twenty-three years. To this union two children were born, who died in infancy. On March 8, 1907, Mr. Riley was married to Katherine Kelly, daughter of Martin and Nora (O'Neil) Kelly, natives of Ireland, where her father was born in 1828 and died in 1902. His wife was born in 1858 and died on May 30, 1900. They were married in Wisconsin and came to Richardson county in 1879, settling in Ohio precinct, where they spent their last days. They were the parents of nine children, as follow: Martin J., living in Liberty precinct; Mary Ellen, who married J. J. Tangney and lives in Kansas City, Kansas; James, of Liberty precinct; Katherine, who is the wife of the subject of this sketch; Bridget, living on the old home place; Anna Nora, living in Ohio precinct and keeping house for her brothers; Elizabeth, who married W. T. Cully

and lives near Friend, this state, and John and Miles, living on the old homestead in Ohio precinct. No children have been born to Mr. Riley's second marriage, but he and his wife have adopted two children, John and Mary Donnelly, who are cousins. Mr. Riley and his wife are members of the Catholic church and are active in all church affairs. Mr. Riley is a supporter of the Democratic party, but has never been a seeker after public office. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and of the Farmers Union, and in the affairs of these organizations takes a warm interest. Mr. Riley has given evidence of his love of country by purchasing liberally of Liberty Bonds and contributing to the Red Cross.

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### FRANCIS WITHEE.

In the historical section of this work there is set out in most interesting fashion Francis Withee's own story of "Life on the Plains in Early Days," and there is therefore no necessity at this point for an enlargement of the details of that adventurous period in the life of the "old-timer" whose name forms the caption for this biographical sketch. Suffice it to say that Mr. Withee, who is one of the real pioneers of Richardson county, as well as one of the best-known men in the county, for three years after coming here acted as a freighter and "bull-whacker" on the plains, his last trip from Nebraska City to Denver being made in 1866. During that period he had many stirring adventures and came to be as familiar with conditions on the plains as any one of that courageous band whose activities in this region in the early days of the settlement of the plains and the mountain country, created one of the most interesting and picturesque incidents in the history of the United States. Mr. Withee is a well-read man of keen intellect and the diary he has kept for many years is a veritable epitome of the history of Richardson county and this adjacent region and a most valuable contribution to the annals of the great state of Nebraska, whose development he has watched from the very beginning and in which development he has done well his part.

Francis Withee, former justice of the peace in and for the precinct of Porter, former assessor of that precinct, the proprietor of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity of Stella and one of the real "old settlers" of Richardson county, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a "Westerner" since he was three or four years of age and a resident of Nebraska since 1858, he having come across the river from Iowa with his



father in that year, the family settling on this side in the then Territory of Nebraska, which at that time comprised all that wonderful stretch of country from the Territory of Kansas north to the Dominion line and west to the Rockies. He was born on a farm in Aurelius township, Washington county, Ohio, November 16, 1844, son of Ephraim and Deborah E. (Grant) Withee, natives of the state of Maine, and the former of whom later came into Nebraska by way of Iowa and here spent his last days.

Ephraim Withee was born at Norridgewock, in Somerset county, Maine, March 6, 1810, a son of Nathaniel and Lydia (Fairbrother) Withee, both of old New England stock, the former of English descent and the latter a daughter of a Scotsman who came to this country and married a girl of the old French-Acadian stock, a member of one of those unhappy families of Acadians who were driven from their pleasant homes in Acadia (Nova Scotia) down onto the inhospitable coast of New England; an incident so feelingly narrated in Longfellow's "Evangeline." Reared in Maine, Ephraim Withee there grew to manhood and married Deborah E. Grant, who also was born in Maine, in 1816, daughter of Samuel Daniel and Abigail (Bickford) Grant, both natives of that same state, members of old New England families, of Scottish descent. After his marriage Ephraim Withee moved to Ohio, in 1838, and settled in Washington county, that state, where he settled on a pioneer farm and where he remained until 1848, when he disposed of his holdings there and came West, via steamboat route, settling in Lee county, Iowa, where he followed saw-mill work and teaming. Two years later, in 1850, he moved with his family to Van Buren county, same state, but not finding conditions on the farm there to his liking, presently moved to Bonaparte, in that county, and thence to Croton and later to Keosauqua, same county, where he presently found himself "getting ahead" in the way of cattle and other possessions. There he remained until 1858, in which year he moved across the state of Iowa and on across the river into the then Territory of Nebraska, settling on a Missouri river "bottoms" farm in Nemaha county between Nemaha county and Brownville, and where he established his home, one of the early settlers of that section. He remained there until the spring of 1864, when he traded what the river's encroachments had left of his "bottoms" farm for the north half of section 12, town 314, later organized as Porter precinct, this county, assuming a considerable obligation of debt as "boot," and moved down here, arriving on May 2, 1864, and establishing his home on the northwest quarter of the above section; he and his sons proceeding to improve and develop the same and at the same time tak-

ing contracts to "break" other land thereabout in exchange for acreage, receiving an acre of land for each acre broken up for cultivation. There Ephraim Withee remained until in the early spring of 1871, when he left the farm and moved up into Nemaha City, where his death occurred six weeks later, May 16, 1871. Ephraim Withee was thrice married and was the father of six children, of whom but two grew to maturity, the subject of this sketch and his brother, George Withee, the latter of whom years ago left this county for the coast and died and is buried at Portland, Oregon. The mother of these children died in Iowa in 1852 and Ephraim Withee later married Elizabeth Williams, after whose death he married Ann Hillyard, who survived him and who later remarried.

As noted above, Francis Withee was but four years of age when his parents moved from Ohio to Iowa and he was thirteen when he came over into Nebraska with his father in 1858. Inured to pioneering from the days of his childhood, he grew up hardy and competent, accustomed to the wild, free life of the plains, and on October 1, 1862, he then being a month or more under eighteen years of age, began the life of a freighter, "bull-whacking" across the plains, and followed that hazardous and adventurous occupation for three years, making his last trip from Nebraska City to Denver in 1866; interesting incidents in which period of his life are entertainingly set out in his own story of "Life on the Plains in Early Days," presented elsewhere in this work. Upon abandoning the life of a plainsman Mr. Withee settled down on the home farm in the precinct of Porter and was a valuable aid to his father and brother in the development of the same. After his marriage in the spring of 1871 he settled down on the old home place and has continued to make that his home to this day, one of the best established farmers in the northern part of the county. Upon their father's death George Withee took the east half of the Withee half section and Francis later became owner of the home quarter section, which he improved in admirable shape and on which now, in the pleasant "evening time" of his life, he is very comfortably situated. During his boyhood Mr. Withee was an ardent "Know-Nothing," his father having been one of the most active supporters of that "American" party; but upon the formation of the Republican party became affiliated with that party and has ever since been an ardent Republican, for many years one of the leaders of his party in this county. For one term Mr. Withee served as justice of the peace in and for the precinct of Porter and was for many years assessor of that precinct, assessing the same fourteen times, a record of incumbency in that office there. He also has served as school director and



during the taking of the thirteenth census was the census enumerator for his home precinct.

On April 5, 1871, Francis Withee was united in marriage to Mary Elizabeth Elmore, who was born in Morgan county, Illinois, October 13, 1848, and was reared in Cass county, same state, daughter of Darius and Mary (Young) Elmore, who settled in Nebraska in 1868. To this union four children have been born, namely: Jessie, who is at home; Luella F., who married E. W. Clift, of Humboldt, this county, and has three children, Ethel Doris Lee, Warren and Harold Eugene; Ephraim, born on January 4, 1880, who died on July 2, 1915, and Joe Henry, born on March 8, 1882, who is operating the home farm. The Withees have a very pleasant home and have ever taken a proper part in the general social activities of their home community, ever helpful in promoting such agencies as have been designed to advance the general welfare. Mr. Withee has been a Freemason since June 19, 1880, on which date he became a member of Oak Lodge No. 29, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Nemaha City, and is a charter member of the lodge (No. 105) of that ancient order at Stella, in the affairs of which he ever has taken a warm interest. He also is a member of the local lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen at that place.

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### ISRAEL L. HEIM.

Israel L. Heim figures among the best and most enterprising members of the farming community in Richardson county. As a breeder of thoroughbred-registered cattle his name is known outside the limits of his home county, many breeders of Aberdeen Polled Angus cattle attending his private sales to obtain some of that choice strain for breeding purposes. He was born on October 26, 1873, in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, a son of John J. and Rosina (Heim) Heim, also natives of the Keystone state, the former born on July 2, 1839, and now living with his son, Israel, on the old homestead, and the latter born on August 8, 1838, who came to Richardson county in 1882.

John J. Heim settled on a farm in this county now owned by his son, Israel, and continued actively engaged in farming up to the time of his retirement. He is the son of Jacob and Regina (Steiger) Heim. Jacob Heim came to this country from Germany when eleven years old, in 1817, with his father, also named Jacob, a native of Germany. Regina Steiger was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Leonard Steiger, who was

born in Germany. Rosina Heim, mother of the subject of this sketch, was a daughter of Christian Heim, who married Rosina Wagner. He came to America when eighteen years old, in 1817. John J. and Rosina Heim were the parents of seven children, namely: Elizabeth, who married Samuel Heim, of Grant precinct; Jacob, who lives one mile north and one and a half miles west of his brother, Israel L.; Mrs. Anna Stoltz, who lives near Humboldt; Mrs. Mary Stratton, living in Brownville; Israel L., who lives on the home place; William, who lives in Arizona, and Mrs. Lucy Draper, living in Manilla, Iowa.

Israel L. Heim was educated in the schools of Dawson and after completing his schooling he remained on his father's farm, a valuable aid to him in the work of cultivating the land. He subsequently bought the farm from his father and had the house, which was built in 1899, remodeled in 1913 and is now modern in every respect, amply surrounded by shade trees and evergreens. His farm of one hundred and sixty acres is located in section 10, Grant township, and is well improved and in excellent condition. In 1912 Mr. Heim began breeding Aberdeen Polled Angus cattle and has some splendid specimens of thoroughbred registered stock. He has a herd of ten cows, headed by the thoroughbred, "Dinsmore Lad," bought from L. H. Howe, of Humboldt. He sells much of this stock to cattle breeders at private sales. He also raises thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs, of which he ships about a carload annually.

On October 4, 1899, Israel L. Heim was united in marriage to Gertrude Draper, who was born in Iowa, on January 16, 1878, a daughter of William I. and Isabelle (Talboys) Draper, who came to Nebraska in 1879, settling in Richardson county. In a sketch appearing in another part of this work relating to William I. Draper (Mrs. Heim's father), more extended and fitting reference is made to the Draper family, who were originally of English descent. To Israel L. and Gertrude (Draper) Heim the following children have been born: Theodore, born on July 1, 1901, now attending Dawson high school; Rosina, March 14, 1903, and Lucy, March 23, 1911.

Mr. Heim is a supporter of the Republican party, but reserves the right to vote independently as occasion demands and has never been a seeker after public office. The Heim family are members of the United Evangelical church and warm supporters of the same. Mrs. Heim is a graduate of the Dawson high school and taught school for some years. She was assistant principal of the Dawson high school for one year and also taught in the district schools of Humboldt. Mr. and Mrs. Heim are cultured and refined



people, who take much interest in the cultural and social activities of the community in which they live. Their modern home is furnished with taste, everything betokening excellent judgment.

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### WILLIAM I. DRAPER.

William I. Draper, a farmer, now living in Grant precinct, east of Dawson, who has been all over the states in search of experience, was born on January 2, 1850, in Warren county, Iowa, a son of John M. and Rebecca (Stanton) Draper, natives of Kentucky and Tennessee, respectively. John M. Draper was the son of John Draper, a native of Virginia, whose ancestors came from England. Tradition has it that the original members of the Draper family came from England in an early day and settled in Virginia, the Carolinas and the East.

John M. Draper was born in 1820 and died in February, 1868. His wife, Rebecca (Stanton) Draper, was born in June, 1826, and died in July, 1913. She was a daughter of Richard Stanton, of Tennessee. The parents of John M. Draper migrated to Indiana in the thirties of the last century and settled in Marion county, Indiana, and were among the pioneer settlers of that part of the Hoosier state. In 1847 John M. Draper settled in Warren county, Iowa, where his son, William I., was born and reared. In 1862 John M. Draper enlisted for service in the Civil War and became a member of Company D, Thirty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. His death was caused by a kick from a mule; his death ensued thirteen days later, and he was brought home for interment in February, 1863. John M. and Rebecca (Stanton) Draper were the parents of six children, namely: Mrs. Ruth Hunt, who died in Iowa in 1875; Mrs. Rachel Flesher, who lives in Oregon; William I., the subject of this sketch; Eliza, deceased; Mrs. Cora Jenkins, who lives in Cooper county, Missouri, and Mrs. Virginia Porter, who died in 1915 in Kansas City, Missouri. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Rebecca Draper left Iowa in 1867 and some time later married Daniel Fox, and still later, moved to Missouri, where she died.

William I. Draper left Iowa in 1867 and started out to see the United States, traveling all over the country to the Pacific coast and doing all kinds of work that offered. During the course of his travels, extending over a period of ten years, he gained considerable experience in worldly affairs and finally drifted back to Iowa. Following his marriage in 1877, he came to

Richardson county in 1878 and rented a farm for two years, at the end of which period he bought eighty acres of land in section 12, Grant precinct; there were no improvements on the holding. Mr. Draper proceeded without delay to put his land into cultivation and presently built a house, success attending all his efforts. He lived on this farm from April 18, 1881, until his removal to his present home, near Dawson, on March 13, 1904. He added to his original eighty acres, finally getting together one hundred and ninety-eight acres. He sold his original place recently and bought the east half of the northeast quarter of section 13, and is now the owner of one hundred and ninety-eight acres, all in one tract.

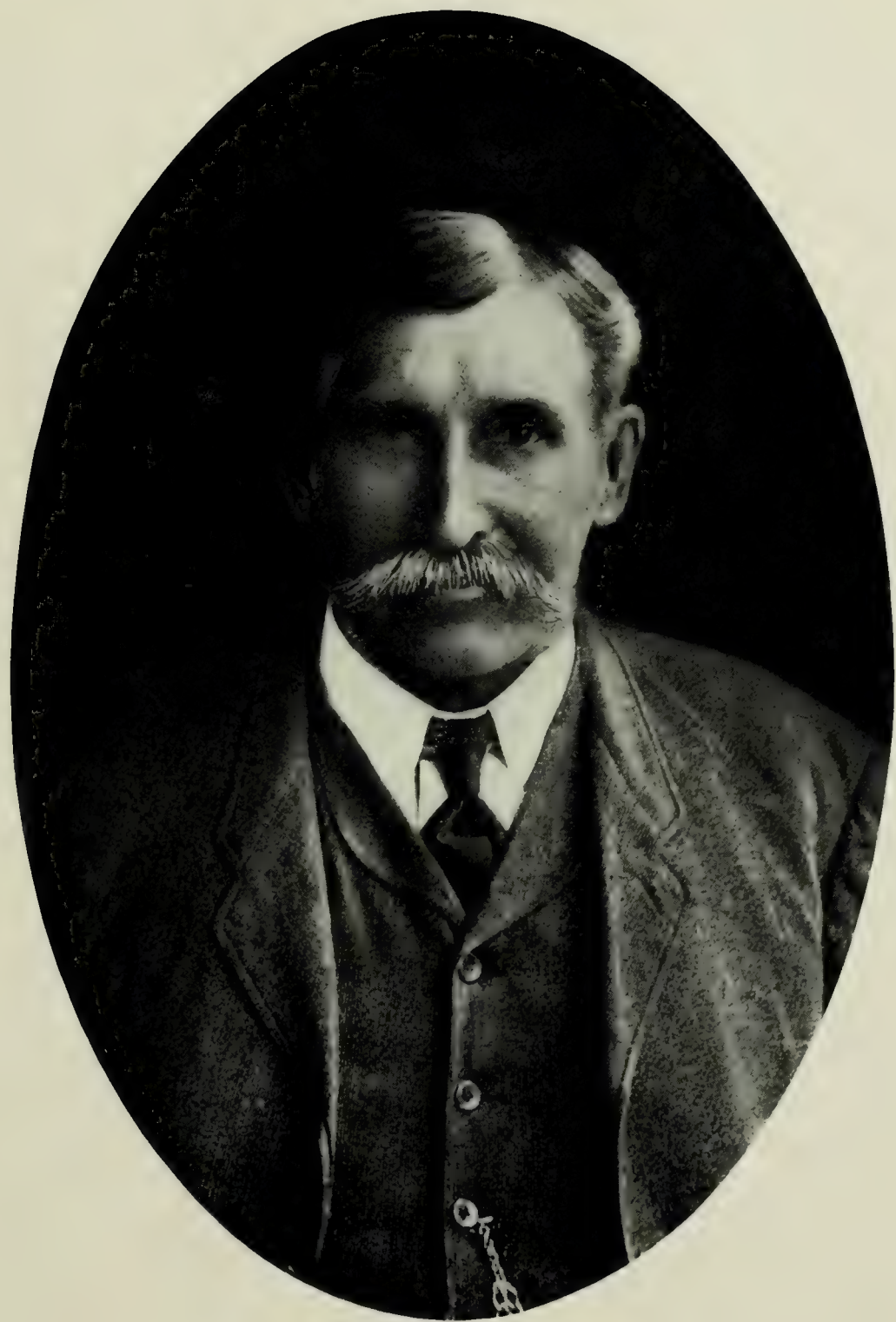
On February 21, 1877, William I. Draper was united in marriage to Isabelle Talboys, who was born on July 8, 1856, in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. She is the daughter of Thomas and Anne (Vose) Talboys, natives of the city of Birmingham, England, who emigrated from that country to Iowa in an early day. Mr. and Mrs. Draper are the parents of six children, namely: Gertrude, wife of Israel L. Heim, further mention of whom is made in another part of this work, in a notice of the life of Mr. Heim; Walter E., a practicing physician, living at Manilla, Iowa, since 1906, a graduate of the Medical College of Sioux City, Iowa; Tida, who married Alfred Swanson, a railroad engineer, who lives at Sioux City, Iowa; Mrs. Orra Swisegood, who lives near Verdon, this county; Arta, who married John Parriot, lives at Elwood, this state, and John, a student in Kansas City Veterinary College. Mr. Draper is a Republican, but votes independently as occasion requires; he has never been a seeker after public office.

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### JOHN W. WIXON.

John W. Wixon, an honored veteran of the Civil War and one of the best-known pioneer farmers of this section of Nebraska, who has been living retired in the pleasant village of Stella since 1891, is a native of the great Empire state, but has been a resident of the West since he was fourteen years of age and of this state since 1869, coming over here from Iowa, he previously having been a resident of Illinois and of Minnesota, a soldier from the latter state and a member of the famous First Minnesota, which bore the tragic record of having lost the largest percentage of its numbers of any regiment engaged in the Civil War. He was born in the state of New York on December 28, 1839, a son of William L. and Eleanor (Finch)





JOHN W. WIXON.





Wixon, the former of whom was born in that same state, a son of Seth Wixon, a soldier of the War of 1812, whose father, of English descent and a member of an old Colonial family, was a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War. Eleanor Finch also was born in New York state, a daughter of Robert Finch, of Scottish descent.

William L. Wixon left New York state with his family in 1855 and moved to Bureau county, Illinois, where he was engaged in farming until 1859, when he moved to a farm near the city of Springfield, in that same state, and there remained until the fall of 1860, when he moved to Minnesota, where his death occurred in the following year. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mrs. Rosella White, a widow, now living at Moscow, Idaho; Edward H., deceased, who was a veteran of the Civil War, a member of the Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry; Mrs. Marilla H. Lawton, deceased; William L., deceased, who also was a veteran of the Civil War, and member of the Fourth Minnesota Infantry; Olive, deceased; Mrs. Josephine Wood, deceased; Mrs. Emily E. Clark, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Frank L., deceased, and Mrs. Ida May Copeland, deceased. It will be noted by the above that two of Mr. Wixon's brothers also were soldiers of the Union during the Civil War and it also is worthy of note that all his brothers-in-law also served as soldiers in behalf of the Union during that great struggle between the states.

John W. Wixon was about twenty years of age when he went with his father to Minnesota from Illinois and was living there when the Civil War broke out. Upon President Lincoln's first call for volunteers on that fateful day in April, 1861, he responded to the call to the colors and on April 19 was enrolled as a member of the First Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and on May 22 re-enlisted for the term of three years, going to the front as a member of Company H of that regiment, and with that command served until his discharge on a physician's certificate of disability, following his participation in the battle of Gettysburg, in which the First Minnesota immortalized itself in the great charge, an attack of fever succeeding that engagement incapacitating him from further immediate active service; but in September, 1864, he re-enlisted as a member of the Fourth Illinois Cavalry and with that command served for some months after the close of the war, receiving his final discharge at Houston, Texas, October 13, 1865. During all this long period of service and participation in some of the bloodiest and most stirring battles and engagements of the war, Mr. Wixon was wounded but twice, receiving a bullet wound in the hip at the first battle of Bull Run and later

a bayonet thrust in the foot during a cavalry charge. Among the other battles besides Bull Run and the great battle of Gettysburg, above mentioned, in which Mr. Wixon participated may be mentioned Balls Bluff, the second battle of Winchester, the Peninsular campaign, Yorktown, Williamsburg, White Oak, Seven Pines, Fair Oaks, Gaines' Mill, the seven-days fight to Malvern Hill, Harrison's Landing, along the Chickahominy, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Mary's Heights. During the later period of his service, while engaged with the Fourth Illinois Cavalry, he served mainly in Arkansas and in Texas and was in the battles at Shreveport and Brownsville and on the expedition up the Rio Grande to Eagle Point.

Upon the completion of his military service, John W. Wixon went to his old home in Bureau county, Illinois, but presently went from there to Henry county, same state, where in the spring of 1867 he was married. The next year, in 1868, he moved from Illinois to Iowa and a year later came to Nebraska, arriving at Brownville on June 7, 1869. He bought a farm in Nemaha county and established his home, remaining there until 1891, when he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved down into this county, locating at Stella, where he ever since has made his home and where he is very pleasantly situated. Mr. Wixon's farming operations prospered and he has become an extensive landowner, the possessor of two hundred and forty acres of fine land in the precinct of Porter, this county; a quarter section of excellent land near Geneva, in Fillmore county, this state, and another quarter section in Chase county, this state, and is very well circumstanced. Mr. Wixon is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. During his residence in Illinois he served for a term as township assessor. He served for one term as constable in Nemaha county and for three terms as a member of the town board of Stella. Mr. Wixon is an active member of McKinley Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Stella, in the affairs of which patriotic organization he has long taken an earnest interest, and is a member of the local lodge (No. 105) of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in the affairs of which organization he also has taken a warm interest.

Mr. Wixon has been twice married. On April 27, 1867, in Henry county, Illinois, he was united in marriage to Elmira Benson, who was born in that county on August 4, 1850, daughter of Frederick Benson and wife, who later came to Nebraska and became pioneers of Nemaha county, and to that union were born seven children, namely: Alvin J., now a resident of Colorado; George E., a veteran of the Spanish-American War, having served



as a member of the First Nebraska Regiment during that struggle, and who is now farming two miles north of Stella; William L., who is farming his father's old home farm; Frederick G., now a resident of Omaha; Mrs. Ida Sayres, of Stella; Samuel D., a farmer at Ashland, this state, and Daisy May, deceased. The mother of these children died in 1905 and in 1907 Mr. Wixon married Mrs. Laura A. Keyes, a widow, who died in December, 1915.

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### CHARLES FELT.

Charles Felt, a well-known building contractor at Shubert, this county, and the owner of a half section of land in Colorado, one hundred acres of which he personally placed under cultivation some years ago, was born on a farm in Allen county, Indiana, June 2, 1852, son of Peter and Alma (Cline) Felt, natives of Germany, who were married in their native land and then came to this country, settling on a farm in Indiana, where their children were born and reared. There were seven of these children, of whom four are still living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters still living. Peter Felt, who spent his last days on his farm in Indiana, was married twice, and by his second marriage was the father of four children. His second wife, Mrs. Weber, had three children by her first marriage.

Reared on a farm Charles Felt remained at home until he had attained his majority, when he went to the neighboring city of Ft. Wayne and there engaged at work at the carpenter's trade, continuing thus engaged at that place until 1879, when he went to Illinois, there married and in 1881 he came to Nebraska and settled on a farm in the precinct of Muddy, in this county, he and his brother, Peter, renting a farm there. When the town of Shubert was started the next year he moved to that place and there resumed work as a builder, acting as foreman on the erection of three of the largest business buildings in the town, besides other work there. In 1888 he returned to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, but in 1891 came back to this county and resumed his building operations at Shubert. In 1909 he went to Colorado and homesteaded a half section of land in Yuma county, that state, and proceeded to improve and develop the same, remaining there until 1914, by which time he had one hundred acres of the place under cultivation. He then returned to Shubert, where he again resumed building operations and has since been thus engaged, one of the best-known building contractors in that part of the county. Mr.

Felt has given proper attention to the civic affairs of his home town and for some time served as a member of the city council.

On August 4, 1879, Charles Felt was united in marriage to Lucetta Shubert, who was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, April 5, 1864, daughter of James and Lucy (Stanley) Shubert, who became pioneers of Richardson county and further and fitting mention of which family is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union three children have been born, Sophia C., who died at the age of fourteen years; Mary E., wife of L. Sayres, of North McAlester, Oklahoma, and Eliza E., wife of Louis Brisby, a farmer living in the precinct of Muddy, southwest of Shubert. Mr. Felt is a member of St. John's Lutheran church and Mrs. Felt belongs to the Christian church, and both take an interested part in church work, as well as in the general good works of their home town and the community in general. Mr. Felt is a member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

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#### EMANUEL ULMER.

Emanuel Ulmer, one of Richardson county's well-known and progressive farmers and the proprietor of a fine farm in the vicinity of Dawson, in the precinct of Grant, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has lived in this county since 1881 and has therefore watched the wonderful development that has been made in this region since pioneer days. He was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, March 8, 1856, son of Martin and Catherine (Shaefer) Ulmer, both of whom were born in that same county, of German parentage, and the former of whom died there in 1870, leaving his widow with a considerable family of children. In 1884 she came to Nebraska with her younger children and established her home on a farm in Grant precinct, this county, in the neighborhood of the home her elder son, the subject of this sketch, had established there two or three years previously, and there she spent the remainder of her life, her death occurring in 1903. Elsewhere in this volume there is set out somewhat more at length something of the history of this pioneer widow and her family, together with some details of the genealogy of the Ulmer family, and to that reference the attention of the reader is respectfully invited in this connection.

Having been but fourteen years of age when his father died, Emanuel Ulmer early began to "hustle" for himself and grew up earnest, sober and



self-reliant. He was trained as a farmer and in the fall of 1881 came to Nebraska with a view to establishing his home on a farm out here in the beautiful valley of the Nemaha, of which he had heard much from other Pennsylvanians who had settled here earlier. He bought a tract of land from Jacob Heim, a Lycoming county (Pennsylvania) man, who had settled here in 1874 and had made heavy investments in farm lands, and after his marriage a few months later to one of Mr. Heim's daughters, established his home on that farm and has ever since made his residence there. For the unimproved quarter section he originally bought he paid three thousand dollars and as he developed that place and prospered in his affairs he gradually added to his holdings until he became the owner of four hundred acres of fine land, but has since sold a quarter section to his sons and now holds but two hundred and forty acres, his original home quarter section and an "eighty" to the south. He has two houses on his home farm and excellent farm buildings, the entire farm plant being operated along modern and up-to-date lines. In addition to his general farming Mr. Ulmer has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, with particular reference to Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, and has done very well, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in his neighborhood.

On December 29, 1881, just a few months after coming to this county, Emanuel Ulmer was united in marriage to Sarah Heim, who also was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, July 1, 1858, daughter of Jacob and Regina (Gross) Heim, natives of that same county, who came to Nebraska in 1874 and became early recognized as among the most influential and useful pioneers of the Dawson neighborhood. Elsewhere in this volume there is set out at considerable length something of the history of the Heim family in this county, together with biographical sketches of several members of the family. Jacob Heim, the pioneer, died at his home in Grant precinct in April, 1914, at the age of eighty-two years, and his widow is now making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Ulmer.

To Emanuel and Sarah (Heim) Ulmer six children have been born, namely: Mary, who married Charles E. Wuster, of Porter precinct, this county, and has two children, Orville and Miriam; Norman, who married Merdeth Miller and lives on the farm adjoining that of his father; Edna, who is at home; Walter, who is attending the Evangelical College at Le Mars, Iowa, and Reuben, who is farming with his brother, Norman, and who married True Stratton and has one child, a daughter, Evelyn, and Nelson, at home. Mrs. Ulmer and the children are members of the United Evangelical

church and Mr. Ulmer, who was reared a Baptist, attends the same, the family taking a proper part in all neighborhood good works, as well as in the general social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. Ulmer is a Democrat, but on local issues is inclined to cast his vote independent of party lines, preferring to recognize personal fitness rather than party allegiance as a qualification for office. Mr. Ulmer is a contributing member of the local chapter of the Red Cross Society.

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### DANIEL HIGGINS.

Daniel Higgins, one of Richardson county's well-known and substantial retired farmers and the proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres two and a half miles northwest of Shubert, who has been making his home in Shubert since 1910, is a native of the great Empire state, but has been a resident of the West since he was five years of age and of Nebraska since he was eleven, and has thus seen this region develop from pioneer days. He was born on a farm in Cattaraugus county, New York, July 16, 1848, son of Thomas and Catherine (Davis) Higgins, natives of Wales, who became pioneers of Nebraska and here spent their last days.

Thomas Higgins was born in 1818 and when twenty years of age, in 1838, came to the United States from his native Wales and settled in New York state. In Oneida county, that state, he married Catherine Davis, who was born in 1816 and who was but three years of age when her parents came to this country from Wales. After their marriage Thomas Higgins and his wife made their home in Cattaraugus county, New York, where they remained until 1854, in which year they came West and located in Wisconsin. Five years later, in 1859, they came over into the then Territory of Nebraska and settled in Nemaha county, not far from the Richardson county line, where they established their home, among the early settlers of that section, and there they spent the remainder of their active lives, Thomas Higgins dying at Stella in 1885 and his widow surviving until 1892. They were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mrs. Anne Richey, deceased; Mrs. Elizabeth Hart, who died at Cleveland, Oklahoma; Mrs. Mary Wilkinson, who died in Oregon; David, John and William, also deceased, and Mrs. Margaret Edwards, of Shubert.

As noted above, Daniel Higgins was eleven years of age when he came



to Nebraska and he grew up on the farm, sturdy and strong, herding cattle, driving oxen to the plow, breaking prairie sod, hauling rails, building fence and engaging in the numerous other tasks incident to the development of a pioneer farm, and remained at home until his marriage in 1873, after which he established his home on a part of his father's farm in Nemaha county, where he lived for two years, at the end of which time he moved onto the old home place and was there engaged with his father in farming until the latter's retirement and removal to Stella five years later, after which he continued to farm the home place until the distribution of the estate in 1892, when he moved onto his own farm of one hundred and sixty acres two and a half miles northwest of Shubert, to which he added eighty acres of the old home place which he purchased, where he continued actively engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1910, when he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Shubert, where he and his wife have since lived and where they have a beautiful modern bungalow in the southern part of the town.

On January 23, 1873, Daniel Higgins was united in marriage to Lucy A. Christy, who was born in Greene county, Illinois, August 11, 1850, daughter of Henry C. and Electa (Corey) Christy, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Vermont, who became pioneers of Nebraska in 1870 and here spent their last days. Henry C. Christy was born on December 5, 1825, and was but a child when he moved with his parents from Kentucky to southern Illinois, where he grew to manhood. There he married Electa Corey, who was born on May 3, 1825, and who was but nine years of age when her parents moved from Vermont to Greene county, Illinois. After his marriage Henry C. Christy continued to make his home in Illinois until 1870, when he came with his family to Nebraska and settled on a farm one mile north of Shubert, in this county, a few years later moving to a farm four miles northeast of the village, over the line in Nemaha county, and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, the latter dying on February 4, 1912, and the former, twenty-one days later, February 25, 1912. They were the parents of eight children of whom Mrs. Higgins was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mary Elizabeth, of Barada precinct; John, of Shubert; Joel, of Guide Rock, this state; Ervin, also of Guide Rock; Mrs. Martha Crozier, also of Guide Rock; Mrs. Anna Fish, of Barada precinct, and Leonard, of Shubert.

To Daniel and Lucy A. (Christy) Higgins nine children have been born, namely: Cora, a trained nurse, who is now taking a post-graduate course in

New York City; Jennie, also a nurse, who is in New York with her sister; Mrs. Lydia Callison, who died in 1912; Mrs. Maude Haskins, who lives on a farm north of Stella and has one child, a son, George, born on November 9, 1913; Carey T., who married Myrtle Williams and is farming the old home place; Grace, a stenographer, now employed in Chicago; Mabel, who died at the age of twelve years; Joseph, an automobile salesman at Lincoln, this state, and Blanche, who is now a student in the Nebraska State University at Lincoln. The Higginses are members of the Baptist church and have ever taken an interested part in church work and in the general good works and social activities of the community. Mr. Higgins is a Republican by traditional affiliation, but is a warm supporter of the Prohibition movement and has done much to advance the cause of temperance in the community in which he has lived since his boyhood days, back in pioneer times.

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### JOSEPH OGLE.

Among the prosperous farmers and stockmen of Grant township may be reckoned Joseph Ogle, owner of three hundred and twenty acres of prime land on his home place in section 2, and also owner of one hundred and sixty acres in Kimball county, this state. In addition to his farming activities he is also an extensive breeder of Hereford cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He was born on March 31, 1849, in Fulton county, Illinois, the son of John and Keziah (Burgess) Ogle.

John Ogle was born in Cumberland, Ohio, and in 1873 came to this state and bought land in Franklin precinct, five miles north of Humboldt, where he was engaged in farming up to the time of his death in 1878 at the age of fifty-seven years. His wife, Keziah (Burgess) Ogle, was born in the state of Pennsylvania. She died in 1870 at the early age of thirty-six years. They were members of the United Brethren church. To John Ogle and wife ten children were born, two of whom are deceased, the others being Mrs. Hattie Davenport, a widow, living at Augusta, Hancock county, Illinois; Noah and Mrs. Anna Marble, also living at Augusta, Hancock county, Illinois; John M., who resides near Harwood, Missouri; William O., in Colorado; James, who lives near Humboldt, this county, on the old home place, and Mrs. Mary Brown, a widow, living at south Sioux City, this state.

Joseph Ogle, the subject of this sketch, was twenty-three years old





MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH OGLE.





when he came to the state of Nebraska, where he farmed with his brother-in-law for one year, at the end of which period he returned to Illinois and was first married in that state in 1874. He returned to Richardson county in the spring of 1874 and purchased the farm on which he now resides, paying for the same six dollars and fifty cents per acre. The land was all raw prairie and wholly unimproved. Many friends of Mr. Ogle declared that he was "crazy," and informed him that failure would follow his venture. Nothing daunted, however, he set to work to clear the land and plant crops, and success attended his efforts from the very beginning, his industry enabling him to pay outright for the land in the short space of three years and then had a profit from his labors. Since becoming the owner of his present holdings, Mr. Ogle has made many extensive improvements and is generally regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in Grant precinct. In addition to his work on the farm he is also engaged in breeding high-grade Hereford cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, and has been equally successful in these lines. He also owns ten acres of valuable land near Titus, Florida.

Joseph Ogle has been twice married. In January, 1874, he was united in marriage to Luretta Swisegood, who was born in Hancock county, Illinois, and died in 1906 at the age of forty-nine years. To this union seven children were born, namely: John, who lives south of Dawson, this county; Mrs. Anna Cross, who lives in Healy, Lane county, Kansas; Marcellus, deceased; Mrs. Lena Roscoe, of Clay Center, Kansas; Susan, deceased; Ray, who lives in Kimball county, this state, owner of an entire section of land, and Pearl, who died when three years old. On May 5, 1908, Mr. Ogle was married to Hattie May Grady, who was born in Beardstown, Cass county, Illinois, a daughter of William Alonzo and Harriette (Hickle) Grady, natives of Ohio. Mrs. Grady is deceased and is buried at Humboldt. She was born near Chillicothe, Ross county, Ohio. Mr. Grady was born near Zanesville, Ohio, and now resides at Vermont, Fulton county, Illinois.

Mr. Ogle is a Republican and throughout his long residence in Richardson county has always taken an active interest in all matters appertaining to the public welfare. In all that concerns educational affairs he has been especially active. In that connection he has served on school district board No. 34 for fifteen years and in other ways has given of his time and energies for the advancement of all movements designed to advance the public good. His wife is a member of the Methodist church at Humboldt, becoming affiliated with this denomination when thirteen years old. Mr. and Mrs. Ogle are members of the Humboldt Chapter of the Red Cross.

## THOMAS H. LYNCH.

Thomas H. Lynch, automobile salesman, of Humboldt, where he is also owner of eighty acres of good land, which he formerly operated, was born on January 4, 1871, on the farm which he now owns, and he has spent his life in Richardson county. He is a son of John M. and Harriet (Brandow) Lynch. To these parents nine children were born, named as follows: Freeman lives in Sioux City, Iowa; Thomas H. of this sketch; Burton is deceased; Mrs. Daisy Smith lives in Custer county, Nebraska; Samuel lives at Yellowstone, Montana; Carl is deceased; Claude is living in Oregon; he is a twin of Carl; Clyde lives in Nemaha county, Kansas; and Edward lives in Du Bois, Nebraska.

John M. Lynch, the father, was born in 1844 near Indianapolis, Indiana. He was a son of Thomas S. and Lavina (Frazier) Lynch, natives of Ohio and Tennessee, respectively, the former born on November 26, 1818, and the latter, December 14, 1817. They spent their lives on a farm and came to Richardson county, Nebraska, in 1868, settling on the farm now owned by B. Frank Revelle in Humboldt precinct, where they endured the hardships incident to life on the western plains at that period. Thomas S. Lynch donated an acre of land for the purpose of establishing a cemetery, in which he and his children and relatives have been buried. The postoffice in this part of the county was also conducted on the Lynch farm for about five years or more, the place being known as Lynchburg. The stage that made the long trips into the West stopped there four times a week. Thomas S. Lynch was one of the first county commissioners in Richardson county. He was active and influential in early-day affairs here and did much toward the general upbuilding of the locality. He was not only a man of industry, but of sound judgment, public spirit and intelligence. His death occurred on July 24, 1902. His wife died on December 10, 1905. His family consisted of seven children, named as follows: John M., father of the subject of this sketch, was the eldest, and was born on September 24, 1839, and died on April 7, 1895; Mrs. Sarah Allen is deceased; Joseph is deceased; Mrs. Minnie Unkefer is deceased; William lives in Oregon; Alice, wife of Chester Powers, lives in Humboldt precinct, Richardson county, and Mrs. Emma Grinsted lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

John M. Lynch, father of the subject of this sketch, was a soldier in the Civil War, having enlisted in Company H, Seventy-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, at Indianapolis and served three and one-half years, seeing



much hard service in the South. He was an excellent soldier and received an honorable discharge. His wife, Harriet Brandow, was born in Rockford, Illinois, May 6, 1848, and she died on November 1, 1891. She was a daughter of Moses and Phoebe (Woods) Brandow. Further mention of her family may be found in the sketch of William Brandow, appearing on another page of this work.

Thomas H. Lynch of this sketch, was born and reared on the home farm where he worked when a boy, and he received his education in the public schools at Lynchburg, where his father taught seven years. When eighteen years old Thomas H. Lynch began farming by renting land. He finally bought out the other heirs to the home place and became owner of the old homestead which he kept well improved and farmed for six years, then, in 1905 moved to Canada and took up a homestead, remaining there until 1913, when he returned to Humboldt, Nebraska, and has since been engaged in the automobile business. By his industry and honest dealings he has built up a large and growing business, handling standard makes of machines.

Mr. Lynch was married on June 22, 1892, to Gertrude McCormick, who was born in Whiteside county, Illinois. She is a daughter of George McCormick and wife, natives of Illinois, where they grew up, married and established their home. Mrs. Lynch came to Humboldt, Nebraska, about 1890, her sister, Mrs. Nettie Schlotterback, having located here previously. To Thomas H. Lynch and wife one child has been born, Mrs. Fay Carsch, whose birth occurred in 1896.

Politically, Mr. Lynch is an independent voter. Fraternally, he belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Knights of Pythias at Humboldt.

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### J. EDWARD GILBERT.

J. Edward Gilbert, one of the well-to-do retired farmers of Porter precinct and the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in that precinct, now living at Stella, is a native of the state of Illinois, but has been a resident of Nebraska since he was twenty years of age. He was born in Henry county, Illinois, January 1, 1858, son of Osborn and Elizabeth (Bartlett) Gilbert, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Illinois, whose last days were spent in the latter state.

Osborn Gilbert was born in 1827 and was but a boy when his parents, Joseph and Nancy Gilbert, left New York and settled in Henry county, Illi-

nois, thus having been among the pioneers of that county. There he grew to manhood and married Elizabeth Bartlett, who was born in that state in 1830, daughter of pioneer parents, and who died in 1864. To that union were born five children, one of whom died in infancy, the others besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Mrs. Marian Stafford, now deceased; Mortimer, a well-known farmer of Porter precinct, this county, and Mrs. Addie Allen, of Iowa. Following the death of the mother of these children Osborn Gilbert married Fannie Grant, who was born in Henry county, Illinois, and who died in that county in 1902, she then being past fifty-one years of age. To that union were born five children, namely: Bert, of Oklahoma; Mrs. Mary Wickwire, of Colorado; Mrs. Lizzie Moore, of Missouri; Charles, of Oklahoma, and Claude, whose present address is unknown to his kinsmen in this county. Osborn Gilbert died at his home in Illinois in 1897, at the age of seventy years.

J. Edward Gilbert was reared on the home farm in Henry county, Illinois, and received his schooling in the neighborhood schools. He early began working for himself and when twenty years of age, in 1878, started out with a party of government surveyors and was engaged for some time in helping to run the lines in western Nebraska. During this experience he became so greatly taken with the possibilities of development in this state that in 1880 he bought a quarter of a section of land in section 14 of the precinct of Porter, in this county, and after his marriage in 1882 established his home there, having previously boarded with the family of Francis Withee. Between the time of taking possession of the place and his marriage Mr. Gilbert had done much to develop his place, had built a comfortable home, planted trees and broke the ground and it was not long after becoming established there until he had one of the best-improved farms in that section and was doing right well in his operations. Some years ago Mr. Gilbert retired from the active labors of the farm and he and his wife are now living at Stella, where they are very comfortably situated. Mr. Gilbert is a Republican and for some time served his local district as a member of the school board.

On December 25, 1882, about two years after settling in this county, J. Edward Gilbert was united in marriage to Carrie M. Timerman, who was born on January 7, 1865, daughter of Jacob and Rozina (Helligus) Timerman, pioneers of Richardson county and further and fitting mention of which family is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Earl, a farmer in the precinct of Porter, who married Sarah West and has one child, a daughter, Erma, born on May 16, 1916; Bertha, who married Jake Hinkle, of Stella, and has two children, Zelma



and Darrel; Ray, who married Mona Ankrom, and Dorothy, who married Herbert Morris, of the precinct of Porter. Mr. Gilbert is a member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and Mrs. Gilbert is a member of the Royal Neighbors. They have a pleasant home at Stella and take a proper interest in the general social activities of their home community.

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### GEORGE F. FUNK.

George F. Funk, a substantial and well-known farmer of Grant township, where he owns two hundred and forty acres of prime land in sections 28, 29, 32 and 33, was born on February 17, 1862, in Hancock county, Illinois. He is the son of Isaac and Mary (Fuhrer) Funk, the former of whom was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, in 1831, the son of Isaac and Anna (Schrauger) Funk, natives of Pennsylvania, who were of the farming class; they settled in the state of Illinois in an early day and continued to reside there up to the time of their deaths.

Isaac Funk, father of the subject of this sketch, came to Richardson county in 1888 and bought the farm now owned by his son, George F., effecting many valuable improvements and setting out a grove of trees. Here he carried on general farming with considerable success up to the time of his death in 1892. His wife, Mary (Fuhrer) Funk, was born in Hessenstradt, Germany; she is the daughter of John and Margaret Fuhrer, also natives of Germany, who immigrated to the United States and settled in Hancock county, Illinois, where they lived and died. Mrs. Mary Funk was born about the year 1839; she is now living with a daughter. To Isaac Funk and wife the following children were born: Mrs. Ella Strunk, who lives at Humboldt, this county; Mrs. Emma Strunk, living at Hiawatha, Kansas; George F., the subject of this sketch; Henry, who lives in Clyde, Kansas; Mrs. Mary Comstock, of Ft. Scott, Kansas; Joseph, living in New Mexico; Mrs. Katherine Triggs, who resides in Grant township and is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land, and Montgomery, of Enid, Oklahoma.

George F. Funk was reared on the farm and attended the district schools in Illinois. Some time following his arrival in Richardson county, he started for himself, working as a farm hand and continued so engaged up to the time of his father's death, when he acquired his present holding of two hundred and forty acres, buying out the interests of the other heirs. He is now engaged in general farming and has met with considerable success.

On October 20, 1898, George F. Funk was united in marriage to Nellie Smith, daughter of Charles and Lucinda (Lockwood) Smith, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Funk are parents of two children namely: George and Charlie, who are living at home with their parents. Mrs. Funk, who was born in Nemaha township, is the mother of two children by a former marriage to Jacob Triggs. These children are Joseph and Lee, the former in Lincoln, this state, and the latter with Mr. Funk.

In politics, Mr. Funk is a Democrat, but has never been a seeker after public office. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Knights and Ladies of Security, and in the affairs of these two organizations he takes a warm interest. Mrs. Funk is a member of the United Brethren church.

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### SAMUEL WAHL.

Samuel Wahl, one of the best-known and most energetic business men in Falls City and the proprietor of a well-stocked department store there, dealer in general merchandise, dry goods and clothing, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of Nebraska since 1870 and has consequently seen this county develop from pioneer days. He was born at Salisbury, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, June 25, 1848, son of Christopher and Barbara (Smith) Wahl, well-known residents of that community, who were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Casper, who is still living at Salisbury; Mrs. Margaret Rumiser, who is also living in her old home county; Henry, who served for three years as a soldier of the Union during the Civil War, a private in the Fifty-fourth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry; John, deceased, and Franklin, deceased. Christopher Wahl, the father, was born in Germany. He came to this country about 1830 and settled in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the milling business and where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in the eighty-third year of his age. He was twice married. After the death of the mother of the children above mentioned he married Mary Horne, also a native of Germany, and to that union were born four sons, Albert, of Myersdale, Pennsylvania; Harvey, who is engaged in the cloth-



ing business at Falls City, and Rufus and Martin, of Myersdale, Pennsylvania.

Reared at Salisbury, Samuel Wahl received his schooling in the little red school house there, going to school about four months a year during his boyhood, and early began working on his own account, working at farm labor, cutting wood and the like and presently learned the shoemaker's trade, at which he worked for about three years, or until December, 1868, when he came West and stopped in Lee county, Illinois, where he began working as a farm laborer and where he remained until in January, 1870, when he came to Nebraska and stopped at Falls City. During the first years of his residence in this county Mr. Wahl worked as a farm hand and in the second year he took a contract to break prairie sod, receiving for that strenuous task three dollars and twenty-five cents an acre. He spent the year 1873 with a government surveyor's outfit in western Nebraska and in 1874 returned to Falls City, where he began clerking in the shoe store of D. H. Ballard. The next year that store was bought by Miller & Moore and its business was extended to include clothing and men's furnishings. Mr. Wahl continued as a clerk in that store until 1882, when he formed a partnership with F. J. Allen and bought out the store of Crook & Towle, which was operated under the firm name of Samuel Wahl & Company until the death of Mr. Allen in 1886, since which time Mr. Wahl has conducted the business alone, the oldest merchant in continuous business in the city of Falls City. He has a well-stocked store and has an extensive and constantly growing business, long having been regarded as one of the leading business men of southeastern Nebraska. In 1902 he moved his store to its present location, having built the splendid store building there the year before, and has since occupied that building, three stories and a basement, fifty-two by one hundred and fourteen feet in dimensions, where he carried a well-selected stock of groceries, clothing, women's ready-to-wear garments and dry goods, arranged on the departmental plan, the best-equipped store in this part of the state. In addition to his store Mr. Wahl is the owner of a fine brick residence in Falls City and is very well circumstanced. He is a member of the local lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and has for years taken an active interest in the affairs of that order.

On June 23, 1886, Samuel Wahl was united in marriage at Falls City to Emma Murray, who was born at Wittenburg, Pennsylvania, in 1859, and who had located at Falls City in 1884, and who died in May, 1903, leaving four children, George, an electrician, now residing at Kansas City;

Clifford, who was farming near Ovala, Colorado, and is now a member of Troop C, First Colorado Cavalry, United States Army; Roy, at home with his father, and Lloyd, also at home.

George Wahl married Celia Quiet, of Kansas City, and has two children, Samuel and Julian. Clifford Wahl married Fern Kessler, of Hiawatha, Kansas, and has one son, Keith Rodney.

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### ALFRED G. BACON.

One of the most progressive farmers and upright citizens of a past generation in Nemaha precinct, Richardson county, was the late Alfred G. Bacon, a man whose name is worthy of perpetuation on the pages of local history. He was born on December 23, 1844, at Dayton, Cattaraugus county, New York. He was a son of Leander and Sarah Ann (Hilibert) Bacon, also natives of the last named county and state, each a representative of old colonial families, members of which were active in the pioneer affairs of their locality. Alfred G. Bacon grew to manhood in his native state and there attended the public schools. He was married in his native state on June 12, 1866, at Clear Creek, Cattaraugus county, to Ann Augusta Frisbie, who was born on September 30, 1847, in the above named county and there she grew up and attended the common schools. She was a daughter of Charles and Mandana (Bailey) Frisbie, both of whom were born and reared in the state of New York. Soon after his marriage, Mr. Bacon moved to Wisconsin and in partnership with his brother, Frank, operated a grist-mill during the year 1867; he then moved to Pennsylvania, where he was employed in the oil fields. In 1871 he came West, locating on a farm in Nemaha township, Richardson county, Nebraska, purchasing three hundred and sixty acres of land. He started here in a small way, living for some time in a small two-roomed house, which was destroyed by fire on August 11, 1881. He then built the substantial Bacon homestead, a large and attractive dwelling. He added to his original holdings from time to time and became one of the prosperous farmers and stockmen of the county. He devoted his attention exclusively to his large agricultural interests until his death, which occurred on August 12, 1896.

Constant Bacon settled in the same neighborhood as did the subject of this memoir, but later moved back to his old neighborhood. Mrs. Betsy Nims and Mrs. Calista Blakely, sisters of Mr. Bacon, also came to Richardson county at the same time as did the Bacons.





MIR. AND MRS. ALFRED G. BACON.





The following children were born to Alfred G. Bacon and wife: Etta Belle, now deceased, was the wife of William Clark, and she left five children, Dora, Jessie, Percy, Roy and Dorothy; Roy has enlisted in the United States regular army at Corvallis, Oregon; Estella is the wife of Charles Eaton, a farmer of Nemaha precinct; Sadie M. is the wife of Austin Ewer and they live in Summit, Idaho; they have two children, Floyd M. and Glen. Mrs. Ina M. Sims, deceased wife of Otis Sims; Uno G., deceased; Archie B., at home; Grace A., the widow of Robert Butler, deceased, and she has three children, Ina, Wenneth, and Harry, deceased.

Politically, Mr. Bacon, of this sketch, was a Republican, and fraternally, he belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Humboldt. He took an active interest in the affairs of his community and was regarded as a good citizen in every respect.

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#### WILLIAM M. RIFE.

A careful and energetic farmer of Franklin precinct, Richardson county, is William M. Rife, who was born in Madison county, Iowa, September 18, 1877. He is a son of Jackson and Mary C. (Rosenberger) Rife, natives of Ohio and Illinois, respectively. The mother was born in 1851 and died in 1886. She was twice married. Her second husband was J. S. Mann, of Stella, Nebraska, who was a harness maker by trade. To their union one child was born, Sibyl, who lives at home. To the union of Jackson and Mary C. Rife two children were born, namely: Charles, who died when seven years old, and William M., the subject of this sketch. Jackson Rife was also twice married. The mother of the subject of this sketch came to Nebraska in 1884.

William M. Rife was seven years old when his mother died. His guardian was John H. Coons, who lived near Auburn and now resides in Porter precinct, and with whom he made his home until he was twenty-one years old. He had received a common-school education. Upon attaining his majority Mr. Rife went to Kansas City, Missouri, where he worked for three months in a brass foundry, then came to Richardson county, Nebraska, and engaged in farm work for two years. He then traveled by buggy and horse to Iowa where his uncle, L. D. Miller, resided, and there he engaged in farming two years, and during that period was married. A year later he returned to Richardson county and bought a farm of one hundred and ten

acres in Franklin precinct which he still owns. He has carried on general farming successfully and kept his place well improved. He has a pleasant home and everything about his place denotes thrift and good management. Mr. Rife erected an attractive modern home in 1908. He is at this writing running a transportation route, an auto truck for the purpose of taking the children in his district to the consolidated schools of his precinct, which was one of the first to organize consolidated schools in Nebraska.

Mr. Rife was married on September 3, 1902, in Iowa, to May Frances McDonald, who was born in Ohio. She is a daughter of Frank McDonald. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rife, namely: Enid, now (1917) thirteen years old; Lois, nine years old; and Hazel, six years old.

Politically, Mr. Rife is a Democrat, but is inclined to vote independently. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church. He is always on the right side of movements having for their object the betterment of conditions in his locality.

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#### EDGAR RANDOLPH MATHERS, D. D. S.

Dr. Edgar Randolph Mathers, of Falls City, one of the best-known and most successful dentists in southeastern Nebraska and late president of the Richardson County Sunday School Association, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Falls City since beginning the practice of his profession in 1899. He was born at Bucyrus, in Crawford county, Ohio, June 23, 1863, son of the Rev. William and Charlotte F. (Randolph) Mathers, the latter of whom is still living, now a resident of Tiffin, Ohio.

The Rev. William Mathers was born in Pennsylvania in 1822, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and early turned his attention to the ministry of the United Brethren church, becoming an "old-time" circuit-riding preacher in the towns and cities of northeastern Ohio, for sixty years remaining actively engaged in the calling that was ever dear to his heart. His first sermon was preached at Osceola, Ohio, and he celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of his entrance into the ministry at that place, the occasion being one of much congratulation on the part of his hosts of friends throughout that part of the state. For fifty years he had maintained his home on a farm eight miles northwest of Bucyrus and there his last days were spent, his death occurring there in September, 1915. His widow, who was born in 1830 in Morrow county, Ohio, is now living at Tiffin, Ohio. She is a member of the old American



family of Randolph, the ancestry of which traces back in unbroken descent to the days of Charlemagne.

Edgar Randolph Mathers was reared on the home farm and from the days of his boyhood was a close student, his schooling in the local schools being supplemented by the prudent instruction of his scholarly parents. He was prepared for college and then entered Otterbein University at Westerville, Ohio, from which he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in 1889. He then taught school for one year, at the end of which time he took up the work of the Young Men's Christian Association, with which in the meantime he had become quite familiar, and was made general secretary of the local branch of that association at Hamilton, Ohio. Three years later he was made secretary of the college department of the Young Men's Christian Association at Cincinnati and for three years looked after the college men of that city, resigning his position there in 1896 to take up the systematic study of dental surgery, to which he had been giving some attention. In pursuance of this design he entered the Kansas City Dental College, from which institution he was graduated in 1899, with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery, and on April 1 of that year opened an office for the practice of his profession in Falls City, where he ever since has been located. From the very beginning of his practice in Falls City Doctor Mathers has done well and he has made some valuable investments in lands in Texas and in the state of Washington. He is an active member of the Nebraska Dental Society and for years has taken a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

Doctor Mathers is a member of the Brethren church and has for years taken a leading part in the affairs of the local congregation of that church, for seventeen years acting as superintendent of the Sunday school. For three years he was secretary and treasurer of the Richardson County Sunday School Association and then for three years served as president of that association, resigning that position in the fall of 1916. During these six years of Doctor Mathers' incumbency the Richardson county association grew from "zero" in the estimation of Sunday School workers to a place as one of the foremost county organizations in Nebraska and in recognition of the Doctor's valuable service in that connection he was elected recording secretary of the Nebraska Sunday School Association in June, 1916. "Vision and inspiration are allied terms, and both come only when there is a true purpose to do the will of the Master," is the declaration of Doctor Mathers, and this is the keynote to the wonderful success he attained as leader of the Sunday school forces of this county during his incumbency, as executive

of the local organization. In this connection, it is but fitting to present here the following "Impressions of the Richardson County Convention," written by George G. Wallace, of Omaha, chairman of the state executive committee, for the *Nebraska Sunday School Record* in June, 1915:

The Richardson county Sunday school convention, which I was privileged to attend, impressed me immensely. These impressions were made deeper because of my long acquaintance with the conditions in that county and knowledge of the rather indifferent attitude of the people toward religious activities and the seeming difficulty in the past of getting them together. But there was an evidence of a great revolution in religious sentiment and of the keenest kind of interest in not only Sunday school work, but in all departments of the work of the Kingdom, and a delightful fellowship that I have seldom seen equaled in a long experience. There was a "keeping step" and systematic action that is seldom equaled.

This remarkable success in organizing the Sunday school forces of Richardson county is largely due to the capable officers who have been serving the past two or three years. There are few presidents like Doctor Mathers, and he is ably assisted by the other officers. They all seem to have caught the vision of the possibilities of organizing Sunday school forces.

I wish other counties, either nearby or farther away, might send representatives to Falls City to study their methods, and if possible, get some of these Richardson county workers to go to their convention and tell them of their success and how it was attained. As for myself, I shall never forget the impressions made upon me by this splendid convention and the fine organization it represented.

Doctor Mathers is a member of the executive board of the State Sunday School Association and on account of the prestige attained by this county in the work of the Sunday schools of the state, the state convention of the association was held in Falls City in 1916, a meeting that will long be memorable among the Sunday school workers of this county. In its issue of January, 1915, the *Nebraska Sunday School Record* carried a biographical sketch of Doctor Mathers, together with a personal appreciation of his services in the Sunday school work of the state, from which the present biographer takes the liberty to quote the following excerpts:

For nearly sixteen years he has engaged diligently in the practice of dentistry in Falls City, meeting with signal success. Doctor Mathers has more than he can do. His skill, honesty, and above all, his absolutely clean character, are characteristics that have made possible his success.

In the midst of his rapidly growing business he never forgot his duty to the church of his choice, and was and is still ready to do anything for the extension of the Kingdom. He is gifted in leading in song. He has been in county Sunday school work for four years—one year as treasurer, two years as secretary-treasurer, and one year ago he was prevailed upon to become the county president.

The condition of the work was anything but bright, but with his wonderful vision of the Sunday school work, and with his executive ability, he was able to make it what it is today. Throughout the year just past he kept in touch with every phase of the work, oftentimes at the sacrifice of his business and home life. But he has



the satisfaction of knowing that the county of which he is president stands at the very top in organization. He displayed a wonderful ability to perform the vast amount of work connected with his program of the office. He was made to see that there was no one in the county that could do the work as well as he through the coming year, and in spite of the sacrifice that it will mean to him, he consented to remain at the helm for another year. Under his able direction there is every evidence that the work will continue to be more and more efficient.

In May, 1893, Dr. Edgar R. Mathers was united in marriage to Ella A. Saylor, of Falls City, a daughter of Simon and Lydia (Myers) Saylor, natives of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and early settlers of Richardson county, the former of whom is now deceased and the latter of whom is still making her home in Falls City, and to this union two children have been born, Lydia Gertrude, born in 1898, and Edgar Saylor, 1902. Doctor and Mrs. Mathers have a very pleasant home at Falls City and have ever given proper attention to the general social, religious and cultural activities of their home town. The Doctor was reared a Republican, but of late years has been inclined to be independent in his political views, with a strong leaning toward the Prohibitionists, and is an active worker in the temperance cause in this county and throughout the state. He has a well-appointed office in the Falls City State Bank building and keeps fully abreast of modern advances in dental surgery, his office being equipped with the most up-to-date appliances for the successful practice of his difficult profession. Upon the declaration of war in April, 1917, the Young Men's Christian Association of this country assumed new burdens and responsibilities and Doctor Mathers became at once one of the foremost figures in the prosecution of this work in Nebraska. He is a member of the executive committee on war work for the Young Men's Christian Association's efforts on behalf of the American soldiers enlisted for service in the war with Germany and is giving his most intelligent attention to the important duties thus entailed upon him.

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### JONATHAN W. HEIM.

Jonathan W. Heim is another of those Richardson county farmers who have come to this part of Nebraska from the old Keystone state and who have become owners of land on extensive scale. He lives on a farm on which his father settled in July, 1874, containing eighty acres of land in section 15, Grant precinct, and is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres in section 10 and another tract of eighty acres west of Henry Heim's place.

He was born on August 11, 1861, in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, a son of Jacob G. and Regina (Gross) Heim, natives of the same county and state, who settled in Richardson county in 1874.

When Jacob G. Heim settled here he bought eighty acres of land on which his son, Jonathan W., now resides. He proceeded at once to prepare the ground for crops and was in a fair way to make a success of his work, when in common with the other settlers he suffered from the plague of grasshoppers which visited Nebraska in 1874. The first year spent on his new holding was a hard one; in addition to the grasshopper pests, it turned out to be a dry year and vegetation did not thrive. He also suffered the loss of two children. His courage, however, did not desert him and by perseverance and industry he prospered, later buying another half section of land.

Jonathan W. Heim was about twelve years of age when he came with his parents from Pennsylvania to the state of Nebraska. He was educated in the district schools and in Dawson, this county. He helped his father on the farm and later bought one hundred and sixty acres of land from his father. On this tract he commenced farming operations on his own account and meeting with a fair measure of success, he added to his holdings by the further purchase of eighty acres. Some time before his father's death he bought out the home place, the father having gone to reside in Dawson, and here ever since he has continued to make his home. The house in which he resides is nicely situated back from the road on a hillside, with a nice grove of walnut trees in the rear. The house and outbuildings are all in excellent condition. By his thrift and industry Mr. Heim has been in a position to pay cash for all his land.

On December 26, 1894, Jonathan W. Heim was united in marriage to Louisa Shafer, who was born on October 20, 1872, in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Heim) Shafer, who now reside in Canada, just across the border eight miles west of Buffalo. They formerly lived in Nebraska and later went to the western portion of this state. Some time later they went to Dickerson county, Kansas, and remained there for a number of years and in the late nineties moved to Iowa, going from there to the old home place in Pennsylvania. From the latter place they moved to Canada, across from Buffalo, about three miles from Lake Erie and now reside in a settlement among his church people, the Brethren in Christ. Mr. and Mrs. Heim are the parents of seven children, namely: Mattie M., Howard John, Pearl Mary, Wesley Laurence, all at home; Clarence Walter, who died at the age of three years; Arthur William and Edith



Viola, both at home. Mr. and Mrs. Heim and family are members of the United Evangelical church and take a proper interest in all church matters. Mr. Heim is a supporter of the Republican party, but has never been a seeker after office.

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### JOHN HEIM.

The late John Heim, who for more than a generation was a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Dawson, Richardson county, was a native of the old Keystone state, which he left and came to Nebraska in 1881 and farmed in this county for the remainder of his life, or up to the time of his death in 1916. He was born on July 18, 1836, in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, the son of Christian and Rosina (Wagner) Heim, natives of Germany, who came to the United States in an early day.

John Heim left Pennsylvania in 1881 and on coming to Richardson county settled on a farm north of Dawson. His first investment in land was one hundred and sixty acres, on which he carried out many necessary improvements and planted to crops. Later, he added a further tract of one hundred and sixty acres and still later he bought eighty acres of prime land, all lying in Dawson. He met with considerable success on these different parcels of land and was regarded as an enterprising and modern farmer in his methods, and at the time of his death on April 14, 1916, his passing was a source of much sorrow to his many relatives and friends throughout this and neighboring counties. Mrs. Heim's son-in-law, Henry W. Heim, is now the owner of the old home place on which John Heim originally settled; the eldest son, Jonas A. Heim, owns the other one hundred and sixty acres and Mrs. Heim is in occupation of the eighty acres on the site of which the United Evangelical church and cemetery are located.

John Heim was united in marriage on April 27, 1861, to Margaret Heim, who was born on December 31, 1843, in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Jacob and Regina (Steiger) Heim, natives of Germany and Pennsylvania, respectively. To John and Margaret Heim, eight children were born as follow: Rosa, Regina, Jonas A., Christian F., Martha, who died in infancy; Malinda, Bertha, who died in infancy, and Alma. Of these children, Rosa became the wife of Joseph G. Heim, of Dawson; Regina married Henry W. Heim and has seven children, Lottie, Charles, Martha, Paul, Harlan, Jessie and John, and Lottie married Clyde Iliff and has two children, Harlan and Enid; Charles married Pearl Klima and has two chil-

dren, Anna Martha and Genevieve; Martha is the wife of Arthur Klimar and has one child, Virginia. Jonas A., a farmer near Dawson, married Ida Emerson and has four children, Linden, Edna, Waldo and Marie. Christian F., of Eddyville, this state, married Ada Barlow and has two children, Margaret Ruth and Ellen; Malinda, who married Bert Judd, of Dawson, and has two sons, John H. and Delbert, and Alma, who was the wife of William James and was the mother of one child, Alma. Mrs. Heim has seventeen great grandchildren.

The late John Heim was a member of the Dunkard church while living in Pennsylvania, and was a consistent supporter of that organization. In politics he was a Republican, but had never been a seeker after public office. His death was the occasion of general regret in this and neighboring counties, where he was well known and esteemed.

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#### GEORGE E. KORS.

A farmer of Franklin precinct, Richardson county, who is deserving of his success, is George E. Kors, who was born on April 7, 1863, at Beardstown, Illinois. He is a son of Henry Frederick and Margaret (Feihl) Kors, both natives of Hanover, Germany, from which country they immigrated to America when young and spent the rest of their lives in Illinois. To them the following children were born: Lydia, deceased; Theodore, deceased; Caroline, deceased; Mary, the wife of C. C. Unland, of Humboldt, Nebraska, (died March 15, 1917); Amelia was the wife of L. C. Hackman and died on February 20, 1912; Luther L., making his home in Beatrice, Nebraska, and George E. of this sketch, who is the youngest. By a second marriage Henry F. Kors had two children, Mrs. Kate Boyd, deceased, and Henry Frederick, deceased.

George E. Kors was reared in Illinois and there received a limited education in the public schools. He moved to Nebraska in September, 1885, and rented land in Richardson county until 1894 or for a period of nearly ten years, then bought a farm and has since made a comfortable living. It was hard for him to get a start. He was only eighteen months old when his father died. His mother later remarried and he left home to work his own way in the world. When he married he was in debt for his eighty acres which he had previously purchased. The first money he earned after coming to Nebraska was twenty dollars in gold, which James Atwood paid him for





GEORGE E. KOIRS AND FAMILY.





one month's work. He now owns a well-improved and productive farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he has resided since. In March, 1908, he remodeled the dwelling, making it modern in every respect, including the installation of a Delco lighting system. He has also erected a new barn, fifty by fifty-six feet, and has one of the most attractive farmsteads in Nebraska. He engages in general farming and stock raising, always handling a good grade of live stock. Mr. Kors' place is named "Highland Farm," because of its excellent location on a high plain; near his homestead being one of the highest points in Richardson county. A magnificent view overlooking many square miles of rich and fertile territory, may be obtained from the farm home.

Mr. Kors was married on November 29, 1894, to Mary Ellen Hinnners, who was born, November 21, 1863, in Cass county, Illinois. She is a daughter of Henry and Matilda (Benidt) Hinnners, both natives of Germany. They spent their earlier years in the providence of Hesse-Cassel, Germany, finally immigrating to the United States, and established their home in Illinois, where the father died in 1876, while still a young man. Mrs. Hinnners married Henry Hinnners, who died in 1915, and she makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Kors, of this sketch. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hinnners: Peter, living in Beardstown; William, also living at Beardstown, Illinois; Rose, the wife of R. T. Wilson and they live at Rising City, Butler county, Nebraska; Mary Ellen, wife of Mr. Kors, subject of this review; Henry, who resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Albert, who lives in Illinois, and Edward, in Beardstown, Illinois, and is farming the Hinnners home place.

Mrs. Kors came to Richardson county in 1894 and Mr. and Mrs. Kors lived for some time on the farm of Mr. Kors' brother-in-law, a three hundred and twenty acre farm located two miles east of where their own farm is now located, and moved to their home place in 1908. Since that time Mr. Kors has made many improvements on the farm, which now ranks among the most desirable in the precinct. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres in Scott county, Kansas, and one hundred and sixty acres in Hitchcock county, Nebraska. He has worked hard, managed well and is eminently entitled to the success he has attained. His wife, who is a woman of sound judgment, has been of much help to him; in fact, he attributes the major portion of his success in a financial way to her, as he has always followed her counsel and advice in important matters.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kors the following children have been born: Elmer

Hinners, born September 22, 1895; Ralph Dewey, May 19, 1897; Veda M., September 27, 1899, and Mabel Margaret, May 1, 1901. The two sons are assisting their father on the farm and the two daughters are attending Humboldt high school, (1917).

Politically, Mr. Kors is a Democrat. He is a director in school district No. 93, serving his third term. Fraternally, he belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Bankers Life of Lincoln and also carries accident insurance in the Travelers' Insurance Company. He and Mrs. Kors are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Humboldt, of which denomination he has served as trustee and treasurer of the building committee.

Henry Frederick Kors, a half-brother of George E. Kors, was a son of H. Frederick and Marie (Henninghouse) Kors (the latter having been the first wife of the father of the subject of this review). He was born at Beardstown, Illinois, December 2, 1846, and died on February 21, 1917. He was prominent in Cass county, Illinois, where he served as circuit clerk and recorder.

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### CHARLES E. NIMS.

There is much of interest and incentive in the life history of a man like the late Charles E. Nims, former mayor of Humboldt, Richardson county, for he had been successful in his chosen field of endeavor and always ranked with the best citizens of his community. He was born, September 27, 1841, in Burlington, Wisconsin. He was a son of Luther and Hannah (Yost) Nims, both natives of Pennsylvania, where they grew up and were married, but moved from that state to Wisconsin in pioneer days, remaining in the Badger state until 1867, when they came to Nebraska, locating at Humboldt, buying land which now forms a part of the townsite on the east side.

Luther Nims was born at Middlesex, Ontario county, New York, October 24, 1809. He was a son of Ruel Nims, who was born on December 6, 1786, and who died in 1881, at the age of ninety-five years. The death of Luther Nims occurred on June 13, 1893. His wife, Hannah Yost, was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, April 3, 1810, and died on August 14, 1894. These parents were married on January 14, 1833, and to them the following children were born: Alexander, born on October 14, 1833, who lives in Kansas City, Missouri; John Henry, born in Ohio on April 4, 1835, who died in Wisconsin during the Civil War; Luther Bingham, born in



Pennsylvania on March 8, 1837, who lives in Cosmopolis, Washington; Ruel, born in Pennsylvania on January 10, 1839, now deceased; Charles E., the subject of this sketch; William Nelson, born on May 6, 1843, at Waupon, Wisconsin, where the Nims family settled in 1844; Mary, who married a Mr. Hilibert and whose death occurred on February 23, 1880; Julia Alvira, born in Waupon, Wisconsin, July 17, 1847, who married a Mr. Sweeney and is now deceased; Marilla Aurelia, born in Waupon, Wisconsin, April 26, 1849, who died while living in the state of Washington, and Emma, who died when ten years old.

Charles E. Nims, of this memorial review, grew to manhood on the farm and attended the early-day schools during the brief winter sessions for a few years. Toward the latter part of the Civil War he enlisted, October 10, 1864, in Company G, First Regiment, Wisconsin Heavy Artillery. He was on duty in the forts near Alexandria, Virginia, and was one of the extra guards at the time of Lincoln's assassination. He was honorably discharged on June 26, 1865.

Mr. Nims was married at Waupon, Wisconsin, February 4, 1864, to Isabelle Landon, who was born on May 14, 1846, at Margaretville, New York, a daughter of Luther and Deborah (Carpenter) Landon, both of old New York families, who moved to Wisconsin in pioneer days, arriving there in October, 1841, and took up a homestead. The family lived in that state until in the seventies, when they removed to Kansas, but later returned to the state of New York, where Mrs. Nims's parents died, the father passing away about the year 1892.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Nims lived in Wisconsin two years, then went to Minnesota and bought a farm in the German settlement in Steele county, in 1867. There they prospered, principally by raising big wheat crops. They came to Nebraska in 1871 and Mr. Nims bought forty acres from his father, adjoining the town of Humboldt, in Richardson county, for which he paid the sum of ten dollars an acre. Later Mr. Nims bought eighty acres more there and operated that farm until 1909; then built two beautiful dwellings in the eastern part of the town. He has also bought eighty acres in another part of this locality, which he sold for a profit. He owned at one time two hundred acres. He sold his home farm in 1908 for one hundred and ten dollars an acre, and later sold forty acres for one hundred dollars an acre. Mr. Nims died on April 30, 1917.

Politically, Mr. Nims was a Republican. He served as county supervisor three terms of two years each, giving eminent satisfaction to all concerned. He also served as a member of the Humboldt school board for sev-

eral years, also three terms as mayor of Humboldt, being regarded as one of the best mayors the town ever had. During his administrations he did much for the general public improvement of the vicinity. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he served as steward for a number of years, and also as trustee. Fraternally, he belonged to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and was a Mason for more than forty years and was a past master of the local lodge. He belonged to William Mix Post No. 66, Grand Army of the Republic and had served as commander of that post.

To Charles E. Nims and wife the following children were born: Mrs. Della I. Saunders, who lives in Kansas City, Missouri; Elosia Mabel, who died in infancy; Newton L., who died in infancy; Elton L., now a real-estate agent in San Antonio, Texas; Mabel Zoe, who was graduated from the State University at Lincoln with the degree of Master of Arts and is now teaching in the high school at Billings, Montana, and Mrs. Anna Fay Holman, who lives on a farm north of Humboldt and has two children, John Charles and Helen Elizabeth.

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### JAIRUS S. DAVIS.

Before giving in detail the life record of the subject of this sketch, it is the desire of the biographer to trace his interesting genealogy, which goes back to illustrious personages in Great Britain many centuries ago.

The Davis family traces descent from Alfred the Great and the King of Wales. Prominent in America during colonial wars and the Revolution, were some of the Davis ancestors. One of the founders of the state of Ohio was Daniel Davis, who felled the first tree cut by a settler west of the Ohio river. There have been many distinguished members of the family in various walks of life. Though of ancient standing in Wales, the name of Davis, originally David, scarcely appears in English annals before the Norman conquest. Modified in various forms it has produced many family names, some of which are among the commonest in use, but Davies or Davis are perhaps the best known today. The lineage goes back to the year A. D. 843, to Rodhori Wawr, King of Wales. Owen Davis, at present a prominent representative of the family in England, is seventeenth in direct descent from King Edward II, and thirty-second from Alfred the Great. The



Lord Mayor of London in 1676 was Sir Thomas Davies, who was knighted by King Charles II.

The first American progenitor of the family was Capt. Delor Davis, who came to our shores from England in 1634. Soon thereafter he married Margery Willard, who came over with her brother Simon on the same ship with Captain Davis. After their marriage they located first in Scituate, in the old colony. Some portion of his life Delor Davis lived in Concord, where he had lands granted him in 1659. He was a carpenter and surveyor and held the office of constable for a long time. He was one of the grand inquest of the Plymouth colony, in 1645, and one of the petitioners for Groton, but probably never lived there, spending most of his life in Barnstable. His daughter Ruth married Stephen Hall, and among their descendants were Capt. Stephen Hall, a distinguished citizen of Boston; Chief Justice Eustis, of Louisiana, and Chief Justice Isaac Parker, of Massachusetts.

Another early settler was Samuel Davis, whose son Asa married Lady Jane Moreby, who was related to the family of George III. Another emigrant was Meredith Davis, who was born in Wales about 1690, and was a descendant of the royal Welsh line of Meredith David. He landed in Maryland in 1720. Descendants of Isaac Davis, a great grandson of Delor Davis, may claim membership in the societies of Colonial Dames or the Sons of the Revolution, for Isaac Davis was a lieutenant in a Massachusetts regiment in that war. Members of the family also served in the early colonial wars. Edward Davis was captain of a militia company in the French War, taking part in the relief of Ft. William Henry. The patriotism of Capt. Daniel Davis induced him to sacrifice his own property for the public good during the Revolutionary War, in which he served as captain. After the war he joined the company of Ohio Associates, which made a settlement in Ohio in 1788. Being desirous of doing something of which his posterity could speak with pride he cut the first tree felled by a settler west of the Ohio river, as stated in a preceding paragraph. This being a buckeye or horse-chestnut tree the incident gave to the state the name which it still retains—the Buckeye state. With his son he participated in the perils of Indian warfare until the coming of Gen. Anthony Wayne in 1784, when he settled down to the peaceful pursuits of life and helped found the institutions of the state. Among the many men of this old family who distinguished themselves in public affairs in America was John Davis, who was four times governor of Massachusetts and United States senator several

terms. George Bancroft, the well-known historian, had Davis blood in his veins, as did also Leon Gardner, the builder of Ft. Saybrook, which he held through the Pequod troubles. In 1639 he purchased from the friendly Indians the island now known as Gardner's Island, just east of Long Island. His grandson, John Gardner, in 1609, was intrusted with much treasure by the notorious Captain Kidd, who remained some time in the vicinity of Gardner's Island, and when he departed he left Mr. Gardner a large amount of gold and silver and jewels. Gardner was ignorant of the character of his visitor, and when the great pirate was arrested he surrendered the property to the governor of Massachusetts Bay. Among heirlooms still in the Davis family is a Bible printed in 1606, which was brought to America in the same vessel with William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania. The family has an attractive coat-of-arms.

Jairus S. Davis, the immediate subject of this sketch and proprietor of the J. S. Davis Land Company, of Humboldt, this county, was born on November 19, 1858, in Shelby county, Ohio. He is a son of Jacob M. and Mary Jane (Furrow) Davis. The father, who was a native of Ohio, was a son of Calvin Davis, a native of Virginia. The family is of Welsh and Irish descent. Grandfather Davis was of Scotch-Irish blood.

Jairus S. Davis was reared on the home farm northeast of Humboldt, where his parents settled on a farm in pioneer days. He was educated in the common schools and remained on the farm until 1881, when he began working at the trade of blacksmith and wagon-maker, working five years for the firm of Anderson & Company, at Humboldt, for which firm his brothers, Alonzo and James B., also worked, both being blacksmiths by trade. In 1886 Jairus S. began operating a wagon shop of his own. In 1888 he went to Hodgeman county, Kansas, where he proved up on a homestead, in 1891. After a protracted spell of illness he returned to Humboldt and in the spring of 1892 moved to Chase county, Nebraska, and took up a pre-emption claim, remaining there two years, selling out his holdings in 1894 and returning to Humboldt. He here engaged in the land business two years. From 1896 to 1901 he was in business in this line in Humboldt with James B. Davis, his brother. He went to Elk Creek, Nebraska, where he engaged in business for four years, then operated a hotel at Virginia, in Gage county, Nebraska, for two years. He then moved to Lincoln, this state, where he was employed by the Lincoln Transfer Company for three and one-half years. In 1908 he engaged again in the real-estate business, establishing an office at Humboldt, but for two years dealt principally in farm lands, handling annually thousands of acres in Nebraska, Texas, South



Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas and Canada. In 1909 he established the J. S. Davis Land Company, which has grown rapidly under his able management until now a very large business is conducted. The firm makes a specialty of farm loans. Mr. Davis owns valuable property in Humboldt and residence property in Lincoln.

Mr. Davis was married in September, 1883, to Alice C. Snyder, a native of Missouri, and a daughter of Philip and Mary Snyder, early settlers of Missouri, who later established their home at Humboldt, this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Davis three children have been born, namely: Lula R., who is at home; Mamie, the wife of Dan M. Haney, manager of Mayer Brothers shoe department, Lincoln, Nebraska, and Mrs. Bertha Hodges, of North Platte, this state. Politically, Mr. Davis is an independent voter. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias and to the Knights and Ladies of Security.

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#### GEORGE W. LEWIS.

The late George W. Lewis, a well-known retired farmer, of this county, who died at his home in Shubert early in 1914, was a native of Illinois and had been a resident of this state since 1877. He was born on a farm in Menard county, Illinois, January 5, 1835, son of William and Elizabeth Lewis, natives of Kentucky, who had settled in Menard county, Illinois, in 1833 or earlier and who had later moved to Mason county, same state, where George W. Lewis grew to manhood and became a practical farmer, and where, in the spring of 1861, he married Elizabeth E. Mowder and established his home on a farm there, remaining there until the spring of 1877, when he came with his family to Nebraska and bought a half section of land five miles northeast of Shubert, half of the tract lying in Richardson county and half in Nemaha county. He built his house on the Nemaha side of the line and early became recognized as one of the leading farmers of that section, developing there a fine farm. He also bought a quarter of a section of land near Aspinwall, in Nemaha county, and at the time of his retirement from the active labors of the farm in 1894 was regarded as one of the substantial farmers of this region. Upon retiring he moved to Shubert, where he had a very comfortable home, and there he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on January 18, 1914. He was a member of the Baptist church, as is his widow, and was a Democrat in

his political affiliation. Fraternally, he was affiliated with the local lodge of the Woodmen of the World.

It was on March 16, 1861, in Illinois, that George W. Lewis was united in marriage to Elizabeth E. Mowder, who was born in that state on July 12, 1841, daughter of Joseph and Judith (Stroup) Mowder, natives of Pennsylvania, who became pioneers of Illinois, and to that union five children were born, Hiram Allen, Florence May, Fannie B., Albert M. and George Walter, three of whom are still living. Hiram Allen Lewis died in 1896. Florence May Lewis married Ernest C. Riggs, a substantial farmer living one mile east of Shubert, in the precinct of Barada, and has three sons, George Burton, Howard, who recently enlisted in the United States army, and Louis. Fannie B. Lewis married Ethelbert L. Berry, also of Barada precinct, and has four children, Cloyd Bryan, Roy Wayne, Beulah and Albert. Albert M. Lewis, who was born in 1868, died in 1904, leaving a widow and three sons, Lawrence Glenn, Ralph Allen and Carl Nelson. The mother of these sons, who before her marriage was Mary A. Weddle, daughter of L. M. Weddle, is now living in Nemaha county. Her youngest son, Carl Nelson Lewis, recently enlisted in the United States army for service in the war against Germany. George Walter Lewis, who is living on a farm two and one-half miles northeast of Shubert, married Mamie McCumber and has eight children, Corrine, Marvel, Velma, Edna, Alberta, Dorothy, Georgia and Guy Walton. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Lewis has continued to make her home at Shubert, where she is very pleasantly and very comfortably situated.

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#### CHARLES B. GRIDLEY.

General farming and sheep raising have claimed the attention of Charles B. Gridley for many years in Franklin precinct, where he has become well established through his industry and good management, like many other Easterners who have cast their lot with the people of Richardson county. He was born in Richfield, Connecticut, March 26, 1842. He is a son of Lyman and Lois (Alfred) Gridley. Lyman Gridley was born in Connecticut, in May, 1800, and there devoted his life to farming, dying there at a ripe old age in 1877. He was a son of Silas and Elizabeth (Benton) Gridley. Silas Gridley was born about 1758, and died about 1838; he was a soldier of the Revolutionary War. He had four sons. Lois Alfred, mother of the





CHARLES GIRDLEY AND FAMILY.





subject of this sketch, was born in Connecticut in 1803 and died in 1901, thus lacking only two years of attaining the century mark. To Lyman and Lois Gridley eight children were born, Charles B., of this sketch, being the youngest reared.

Charles B. Gridley was reared on the home farm in his native state and there he attended the district schools, also spent three months at Wilberham Academy. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age; he then began life for himself by buying a farm, but later sold out and came West, making the trip as far as Illinois by railway; he then bought a team and drove overland to Richardson county. He began life here in typical pioneer fashion, built a small house of cottonwood and worked hard transforming the wild prairie sod into a productive farm. His nearest market was Brownville. He procured his present farm in 1866, and he has thus spent a half century on this place and in this respect perhaps his record is not surpassed by many in this section of the state. He took an active interest in the upbuilding of his community where he has been well known and influential since the days of the first settlers. This country was still the domain of the red man when he came here and the Indians had a well-beaten trail across the northern end of his farm, but they never molested him in any way. He has a well-improved and productive farm of three hundred and twenty acres in section 9, Franklin precinct. He has been very successful as a grower of general crops and live stock, specializing in sheep raising, keeping large herds from year to year. His place is located six miles northwest of Humboldt. He helped organize school district No. 10. Politically, he is a Democrat, and he has been active in local public affairs ever since coming here. He has served as assessor of his precinct and was one of the first members to be elected on the county board of supervisors. He has also served as township treasurer and justice of the peace, discharging his duties in each in a most commendable and satisfactory manner. He has long been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church here and is a trustee in the same.

Mr. Gridley is of the ninth generation since the Gridleys settled in America. His grandfather, Silas Gridley, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, enlisting in 1776. The Gridley family came from England to the New World in Colonial days.

Charles B. Gridley was married on December 19, 1875, to Ada H. Sowle, who was born in Pennsylvania. She is a daughter of D. W. and Elizabeth (Hosford) Sowle, natives of the state of New York. The family

finally came west and located at Oketo, Kansas, and there the father of Mrs. Gridley followed the carpenter's trade, also practiced medicine.

Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gridley, namely: Corydon, who lives in Jefferson county, Nebraska; Elizabeth, who was the eldest child, is deceased; Nellie is at home; William is at home; Mrs. Millicent Solenburger lives in Belleville, Kansas; and Lois is the youngest child.

Mr. Gridley has lived to see and take part in the great changes that have been noted in southeastern Nebraska during the past fifty years and he talks interestingly of the early times here and of the later transformations.

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### EDWARD D. MORRIS.

One of the best known farmers and live stock breeders in Nemaha township, this county, is Edward D. Morris, who was born on September 27, 1865, in Wales, a son of Evan and Elizabeth (Davis) Morris. Evan Morris was born on December 25, 1844, in Wales, and there spent his boyhood. He emigrated to America in 1868, locating on a farm just east of Verdon, in this county, buying eighty acres, which he improved and farmed for nine years, then sold out and bought his present farm. When he first came West to look for a location he deposited his money in a bank in Falls City. The bank failed and he lost nearly all he had, but he had paid enough down on his land to hold it. He persevered and worked hard, finally paying it out. He became a successful farmer, always keeping a good grade of cattle and sheep, hogs and horses, and made a specialty of raising sheep. He was an influential man in his precinct and was familiarly known as "Uncle Evan." He is now making his home in Wyoming among his children. His wife was born in Wales on September 26, 1844, and her death occurred March 25, 1917. These parents were members of the Congregational church. Ten children were born to them, all in Nebraska, with the exception of the eldest, the subject of this sketch, six of these survive at this writing, those besides Edward D., being as follow: Anna, who lives near Gillette, Wyoming; Elizabeth, who also lives there; Thomas, who is farming in Nemaha precinct, this county; John, who lives at Gillette, Wyoming, and Evert, who lives near Billings, Montana.

Edward D. Morris was three years old when his parents brought him to the United States. He grew to manhood in Richardson county, worked hard on the home farm when a boy during the summer months, and in



the winter time he attended the district schools. The first school he attended was taught in a residence near the village of Verdon. Later he was a student in the rural schools of Salem township. He remained on the home place until he was twenty years old, when he began working out as a farm hand and laborer. He farmed for Stephen B. and Joseph Miles for a period of eighteen years, operating one of their farms near Bern, Kansas. In 1912 he took charge of his father's farm, which he purchased and here he still resides. The place consists of one hundred and sixty acres in section 1, Nemaha precinct. He has made many improvements on the place and is carrying on general farming and stock raising successfully. He built an attractive modern home in the spring of 1917, his old residence having been destroyed by fire. He is a breeder of Poland China hogs, having engaged in this business since 1897. His fine hogs find a very ready market whenever offered for sale, owing to their superior quality and he has customers all over this section of the country. He holds sales at his home twice a year, in the spring and fall.

Mr. Morris was married on February 18, 1885, to Martha B. Harvey, who was born, reared and educated in Richardson county. She is a daughter of Oliver J. and Martha (Lorton) Harvey, natives of Jackson county, Missouri, and early settlers of Richardson county, where they became very comfortably established on a farm through their hard efforts.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Morris, namely: Edward, Jr., assistant cashier of the Citizens Bank at Sabetha, Kansas, and Anna, who is the wife of Earl C. O'Roke, professor in the University of Wyoming at Laramie. Mr. and Mrs. Morris have also taken three children to rear from the New York Children's Home: Pearl, now (1917) thirteen years of age; Arleen, twelve, and Oran, eleven.

Mr. Morris is a Republican, but is inclined to vote independently. He was a member of the school board during his residence in Kansas and has served in a like capacity in his home district in Nemaha precinct during the past nineteen years. He is a member of the Presbyterian church at Bern, Kansas. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America at Salem, and formerly belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has always been known as a good law-abiding citizen. When twenty-one years old he took out naturalization papers. He has lived in Richardson county nearly fifty years, during which period he has seen "wondrous changes come over the face of the land"; has lived to see the wild prairies transformed into a superb farming country, dotted

with churches, school houses, thriving towns and the happy homes of men. He talks interestingly of the days when he helped to break the virgin prairie sod with oxen, when he bound grain after the old-fashioned reaper and lived the simple life of a pioneer.

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### MICHAEL L. HAYS.

The splendid success which has come to Michael L. Hays, for many years one of the progressive men of affairs of Richardson county, but now a leading lumberman of the city of Lincoln, is directly traceable to the salient points in his character, for he started in life practically at the bottom of the ladder, which he has mounted with but little aid from any source, although meeting with the usual obstacles that confront most men of affairs who have ambition.

Mr. Hays was born on November 17, 1850, in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. He is a son of George L. and Julia (Ambrose) Hays. George L. Hays was born in Pennsylvania and there grew up and devoted his activities to farming. He remained in his native state until 1855, when he moved to Taylor county, Iowa. After remaining there two years he moved, in 1857, to Nebraska, and became a pioneer in Richardson county, enduring the usual hardships and privations incident to life on the western frontier. He developed a good farm from the raw prairie, breaking up the sod with oxen, the team with which he drove his prairie schooner overland from Iowa. He settled in West Muddy precinct. Only fifteen acres of the place had been broken and a rude dwelling had been built. Its former owner had taken up the land as a homestead and proved up on it. The nearest market at that time was Brownsville, a distance of twenty miles. George L. Hays and his wife became owners of three hundred and twenty acres. By hard work and perseverance he prospered with advancing years and became very comfortably established, ranking among the leading farmers of his precinct. He brought his land up to a high state of improvement and cultivation, erecting thereon a splendid group of buildings and there he engaged in general agricultural pursuits and stock raising on an extensive scale until his death, which occurred in 1864. His widow survived until about 1871. To these parents nine children were born, as follow: George, Jr., Mrs. Mary McDonald, Louis, John, Jesse, David, all now deceased; Susan, the wife of Barney Mullen, a sketch of whom



appears elsewhere in this work; Michael L., the subject of this review, and Louise, who lives at Lawton, Oklahoma.

Michael L. Hays was five years of age when his parents moved from Pennsylvania to Iowa, and was seven when they came to this county. He grew to manhood on the home farm and, like the sons of all pioneers, found plenty of hard work to do in assisting his father develop the home place in West Muddy. He received his early education in a private school, as the opportunities for attending public schools in those early days of the West were exceedingly limited. By wide miscellaneous home reading and by actual contact with the world he has become a well-informed man along general lines. He continued to work on the home farm until 1883, having purchased the place about 1870. He made extensive improvements on the place, kept it under a splendid state of cultivation, and was successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. However, desiring another field for the exercise of his talents, he left the farm in 1883 and moved to Stella, where he purchased a lumber yard, which he conducted until 1885, when he sold out and engaged in the drug business there until 1895, in which year he resumed the lumber business and has retained interests in a lumber yard there ever since. In 1917 he located in Lincoln, and is now president of the well-known and rapidly growing Hays Lumber Company, which, under his able and judicious direction, has taken its place in the front ranks of lumber companies in this state. The company owns and operates six yards, located at the following Nebraska towns: Stella, Shubert, Syracuse, Crete, Hebron and Dewitt. The general offices of the firm are in Lincoln, at No. 1001 Terminal Building. All the retail yards are doing a very satisfactory business, carrying large stocks of all kinds of lumber and building material.

Mr. Hays married Mattie McDowell, who was born near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Weller) McDowell, natives of Pennsylvania and early settlers of Nebraska, having located on a farm in Muddy River precinct, Richardson county, where they became very comfortably established as a result of their close application and good management. Mrs. Hays grew to womanhood on the farm and was educated in the district schools and in the Brownsville high school. Prior to her marriage she taught in the district schools for a number of years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hays two children have been born, one of whom died in infancy. Herbert Hays, the son, whose birth occurred on October 11, 1888, was educated in the public schools of Stella, in the Omaha high

school and at Colgate College, at Hamilton, New York, and also studied in the University of Nebraska. He made an excellent record as a student, and thus exceptionally well equipped for his life work he turned his attention to the lumber business at Stella, and became secretary, treasurer and general manager of the yards of the Hays Lumber Company there. He discharged his duties as head of the yards there in an able, successful and highly satisfactory manner until January, 1915, when he went to Lincoln, where he has held an official position with the company ever since.

Herbert Hays was married on January 26, 1916, to Evelyn Beaumont, who was born in Perkins county, Nebraska, a daughter of C. H. and Grace (Nash) Beaumont, both natives of Connecticut, but who are now residing in Lincoln, Nebraska, where Mr. Beaumont is engaging in the banking business.

Michael L. Hays and his family belong to the Baptist church. His wife was first married to Arthur Walsh, and a daughter was born to that union, Marguerite, who is now Mrs. Harvey Hogreve. Mr. Hogreve is now manager of the yards of the Hays Lumber Company at Hebron. He formerly lived at Stella. He is a member of the company and a stockholder in the same. Michael L. Hays is a man who has always borne a reputation for unswerving honesty, industry, public spirit and pleasing personality, and has a host of friends wherever he is known.

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### WILLIAM G. JONES.

A highly respected citizen and successful agriculturist of Richardson county during the generation that has just passed, who is deserving of a place in local history was the late William G. Jones, of Humboldt. He was born on March 30, 1828, at Steuben, Oneida county, New York, a son of William G. and Grace (Griffith) Jones, both natives of Wales, from which country William G. Jones, Sr., emigrated to New York and was there married. William G., the subject of this review, was reared in New York state, and there on January 20, 1857, was married to Elizabeth J. Owens, who was born on August 19, 1837, at Remsen, Oneida county, New York. Her family and the Jones family were later neighbors. Elizabeth J. Owens was a daughter of Evan Owens, who was born in 1799 in Wales, from which country he came to America with his parents in 1800, and here he spent the rest of his life, dying at an advanced age



in 1884. He married Honorah Smith, who was born at Remsen, Oneida county, New York in 1808. Her death occurred in 1850. Ten children were born to Evan Owens, nine by his first wife, named as follow: James, deceased; Charles, who lives in New York; John, deceased; Elizabeth J., who became the wife of William G. Jones; Mrs. Martha Brown, who lives in New York state; Mary Ann, deceased; Hannah, deceased; Evan, Jr., who lives in Sugar Grove, Illinois, and Smith, deceased.

William G. Jones, the subject of this sketch, and wife moved from New York to Kane county, Illinois, in 1857. They purchased a farm and continued to reside there until 1880, when they sold out and came to Nebraska, buying a farm in Porter precinct, this county, for which they paid only eighteen dollars an acre. The same land is now worth two hundred dollars an acre. Mr. Jones brought the place up to a high state of improvement and cultivation and made a success as a general farmer, the place now being one of the most desirable farms in the precinct; being not only exceptionally productive, but well equipped with timber and running water. Mr. Jones continued to reside there until in November, 1903, when he purchased a beautiful home in Humboldt, where he also made many important improvements. He had been a good manager and a hard worker while on the farm and he was thus enabled to spend his declining years in the midst of plenty and in honorable retirement. He accumulated two hundred and ninety-six acres of valuable land in all.

To William G. Jones, Jr., and wife the following children were born: Frank, whose birth occurred at Sugar Grove, Kane county, Illinois, February 23, 1858, and who died on June 1, 1903; Herbert, born at Sugar Grove, Illinois, December 3, 1860, who lives at Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he has been employed by a grain commission firm since 1892, and Grace, who was graduated from the State Normal school at Peru, Nebraska, taught school successfully in Richardson county for a number of years, including three terms in the Humboldt schools, and now looks after her father's estate, which she is managing with ability and success. Her mother was also a school teacher for some time in the state of New York and was a well educated woman for her day and generation.

Politically, Mr. Jones was a Republican, and was active and influential in public affairs. He held the office of county commissioner in Kane county, Illinois; however, he never cared for public office, being primarily a home man, best contented when by his own fireside, and was always kind, thoughtful and indulgent to his family. He and his family attended the

Presbyterian church. He was a man of friendly and helpful nature and upright character.

The death of Mr. Jones occurred on February 25, 1907, when lacking about a month of his seventy-ninth birthday. Five weeks before his death, on January 20, 1907, Mr. and Mrs. Jones celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, the day being devoted to a reception and dinner to scores of their country friends, and the evening being devoted to receiving the city people from 7:30 to 9:30 P. M. More than two hundred invitations were issued and many very fine presents were received by this estimable couple.

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### MAJOR WILLIAM H. KEELING.

In a history of Richardson county, Nebraska, special mention should be made of Major William H. Keeling, now living in retirement in Falls City, after a successful career. His army record is one of which his family and friends may well be proud, for he performed his duties nobly in assisting to save the Union a half century ago. He was born on March 18, 1835, in Vermont, near the Canadian boundary. He is a son of Henry and Nancy (Hill) Keeling, natives of Canada and Vermont, respectively. The mother of Henry Keeling was a Revolutionary pensioner, who, when ninety-six years of age, made the long journey from Rockford, Illinois, to Connecticut. The family is of pioneer New England stock, dating back to the year 1635. Henry Keeling left Vermont in 1836 and went to New Orleans, Louisiana. He became a sailor, following the sea in a sailing vessel until 1855, then came to Amboy, Illinois. He bought the land warrants of American soldiers who had served in the Mexican war, and entered a vast tract of land near Amboy, engaging in farming there on an extensive scale; but he had sold all his land prior to his death. He sold one hundred and sixty acres to a brother of Charles Dickens. The mother of the subject of this sketch died when he was a child. He remained with the rest of the family in Vermont when his father went to New Orleans. It was not long until the latter became a sailing master on the Gulf of Mexico, where he remained for a number of years.

William H. Keeling spent his boyhood in his native state and there attended the common schools and the academy at Bakersfield, Vermont. He began working at the printer's trade, but in 1853 joined his father in New Orleans. In April, 1855, he entered the employ of the United States government, and was a member of a surveying corps at Leavenworth, Kansas.





WILLIAM H. KEELING, 13TH U. S. INFANTRY, 1861-68.



WILLIAM T. SHERMAN, 13TH U. S. INFANTRY, 1861.





one season. He then clerked in a grocery store at Leavenworth until the spring of 1856, following which he entered the employ of an immigration company in eastern Iowa for one year. He followed surveying in Louisiana a year, and in 1858 went to Houston, Texas, where he was associated with a family that were relatives of William H. Taft, later to become President of the United States, remaining with that household until 1860. He planned to go into business in the South, but sickness overtaking him, he returned to the old homestead, later coming to St. Louis, where he worked awhile, going to eastern Iowa in 1861, where he recruited for the United States army. He was offered a commission of lieutenant-colonel of a regiment of volunteers, but declined, preferring to remain with the Thirteenth Regiment of the regular army, which he did until 1867. He has been known as "Major" Keeling for fifty years. He has three commissions, two signed by President Lincoln and one by President Johnson. His first service was at Jefferson barracks, St. Louis, but from 1862 until the close of the war he was under Gen. William T. Sherman in his famous Southern campaigns, and he was for a time a member of Sherman's staff, temporarily as quartermaster. He had authority as lieutenant to use Sherman's name in performing his duties in his official capacity. He is one of only two living survivors entitled to "headquarters badges" of the military division of the Mississippi commanded by Gen. W. T. Sherman. He was admired by his comrades and trusted by his officers, known to all as a brave and efficient officer. He served in many important engagements and campaigns. On May 6, 1866, having remained in the regular army after the close of hostilities, he was sent from Ft. Leavenworth to Montana, as quartermaster in charge of a vast amount of government supplies carried on several steamers, arriving at his destination on July 11th of that year. He built the military post at the mouth of the Judith river in Montana, known as Camp Cooke. He also selected the site of Ft. Shaw. He retired from the service in 1867, after a most commendable record, receiving an honorable discharge. He came to Falls City in 1868 and on September 5th of that year engaged in the general merchandise business with Maj. J. E. Burbank, until the fall of 1872, when he was appointed army post trader for the United States government at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He held this position until the spring of 1886, when he returned to Falls City, where he had retained some business interests during his absence at the fort, and here he again entered actively into mercantile pursuits. It was a partnership business until in January, 1888, when he conducted the store alone for five years or until 1893.

Major Keeling had rare experiences on the western plains in the early days of the "wild and woolly West," and he recalls many interesting reminiscences of those times. He mingled much with the Indians, was a friend to them and in turn was beloved by them; he had great influence over them. While in Montana they called him "The man that shakes hands and gives us bread and meat." He and General Sherman remained warm friends until the latter's death.

Major Keeling was married three times; first in 1863, to Abbie E. Dunham, of Almor, Iowa, who died in May, 1866. This union was without issue. On January 5, 1868, he married for his second wife, Eliza E. Hoyt, whose death occurred on April 5, 1891, leaving two children, Lois H., who lives at home, and Taylor, who lives in Montana and is married and has one child, Lois Harriet. The Major's third marriage took place in July, 1897, when he espoused Mrs. Zaida (Miller) Strech, of Falls City, widow of one of the first editors of the *Falls City Journal*. She is a daughter of Anderson Miller, an old settler of Falls City, and was born near Savannah, Missouri. Anderson Miller, her father, was born in Indiana, but moved from that state to Hancock county, Kentucky. He married Lucretia Crane, a native of New York state and the representative of an old family there. She was born in 1825 and died in 1911. Anderson Miller was born in 1825 and died in August, 1916, having reached an advanced age. They were married in 1853 and first moved to Missouri, locating near Savannah; then returned to Indiana, but later moved back to Missouri, and in 1859 came to Richardson county, where there was but a handful of houses at Falls City. They secured eighty acres, which is now covered by the city and is a part of the original survey of the town. Mr. Miller devoted his entire active life to farming, specializing in fruit growing, maintaining a large orchard and was one of the most successful horticulturists of this locality. He was well known and highly respected throughout the county. His daughter, Zaida Miller, first married H. S. Strech in 1872. He was for a number of years publisher of the *Falls City Journal* and his death occurred in 1885. To Mr. Strech and wife three children were born, namely: Mrs. Ada Coleman, living in Wyoming; Helen, the wife of J. L. Morgan, of Strahsville, Richardson county, and Mrs. Stella Sweeney, who resides at Golden, Colorado. To Major Keeling and his last wife one child has been born, William M. Keeling, who is at this writing attending the military school at Kearney, Nebraska.

Politically, Mr. Keeling is a Republican and he has long been active and influential in party affairs. He has served as mayor of Falls City three differ-



ent terms, during which he did much for the general welfare of the community, discharging his duties in a manner that reflected much credit upon his business ability, his public spirit and high sense of honor. Religiously, he belongs to the Episcopal church. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and has served this order as district commander. He is one of the most substantial and progressive citizens of Richardson county and is a man of excellent personal qualities, being well informed and an obliging, companionable and upright gentleman, who is highly esteemed by all who know him.

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### CHRISTIAN A. JORN.

Christian A. Jorn, contractor of Verdon, this county, was born in Hanover, Germany, January 7, 1864, a son of Christian and Melasina (Siebrecht) Jorn, who were natives of Germany, where they grew up, married and established their home. They were parents of twelve children, only four of whom are living at this writing, namely: Mrs. Louise Wellhousen, who lives in Hesse Cassel, Germany; Mrs. Christena Ihlen, who lives in Hanover; George, who lives in Decatur, Kansas, and Christian A., the subject of this sketch.

The gentleman whose name heads this review grew to manhood in his native land and there attended school. When a young man he learned the trade of cabinet maker. He left his native land in 1880, coming to Nebraska and settling in Arago, where he followed his trade; and in 1883 moved to Verdon, where he has since made his home, with the exception of five years spent in Decatur county, Kansas, where he was a pioneer. He has been one of the leading builders in the county for over thirty years, erecting town and farm houses, barns and public buildings all over this part of the county. He is also a designer, which art he learned in his native land. He is a student of modern architecture and has kept well abreast of the times in all that pertains to his calling. He is owner of five valuable residence properties in Verdon, and also owns two vacant lots there. In 1915 he erected a modern bungalow, equipped with hot and cold water, furnace heat, gas lighting, etc., designed and built by himself, and it is one of the choice homes of its type in the county.

On October 16, 1898, Mr. Jorn was married to Emma Schrader, who was born in Illinois, February 8, 1872. Mention of her family is made in the sketch of Harry H. Schrader, appearing in another portion of this

volume. To Mr. and Mrs. Jorn four children have been born, Mildred, Mabel, Alma and Georgia, all at home. Mr. Jorn is a Democrat, is president of the Verdon high school board and has for some time been deeply interested in the welfare of local schools. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He belongs to the Lutheran church.

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### ELIJAH CURTIS HILL, JR.

Elijah C. Hill, well-known stockman and farmer, of Grant township, Richardson county, owner of two hundred and fifty acres of land, sixty acres of which he farms, was born on the farm on which he now resides on April 7, 1867. He is the son of Elijah C. and Arcosh (Kallerstine) Hill, who were the parents of twelve children, six of whom are deceased, the others being Roland, who lives at Greeley, this state; Reuben J., of Porter township; Marshall N., further reference to whom is made elsewhere in this work; Mrs. Martha Van Vleet, Crete, this state, who recently married Perry M. Talley, and Grant, who lives in Cameron, Montana.

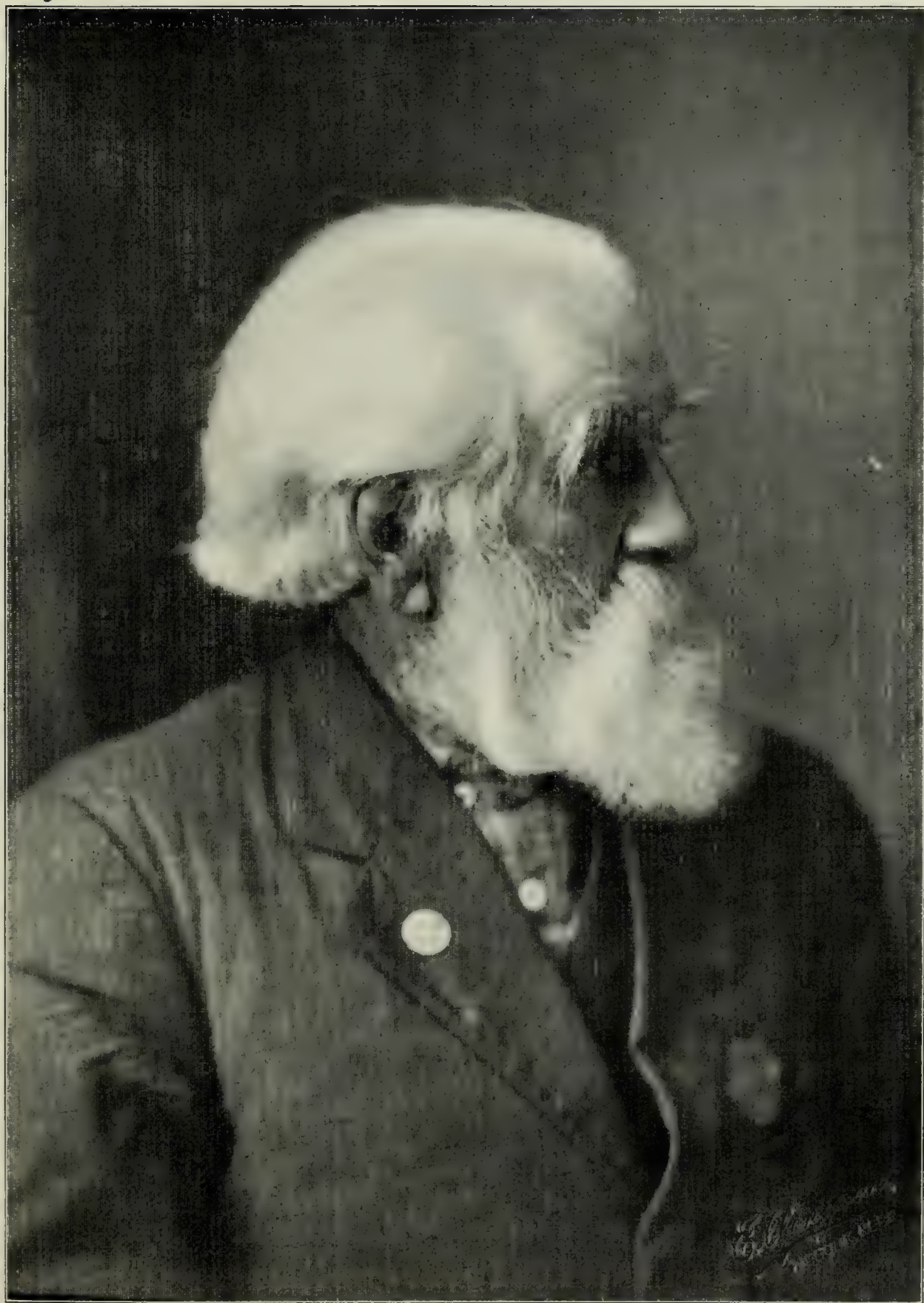
The following interesting facts are gathered from the *Falls City Journal*, published on the occasion of the anniversary of the fiftieth year following the arrival in Nebraska of E. C. Hill, Sr.:

"In 1865 E. C. Hill, living in the province of Ontario, near London, Canada, heard and hearkened to the call of the great West. He gathered such possessions as were his and started for the homestead country, which he understood was beyond the Missouri river. Somehow or other the name 'Nebraska' loomed large before him and beckoned him on to the promise of a new and free home, the gift of the great republic on whose borders he was born and had lived up to that time. It was the 19th day of April, 1865, that he arrived in Nebraska.

"It was to celebrate this event that his neighbors and old-time friends met at his farm, three miles north of Dawson, on the 19th of April, 1915, at a twelve o'clock dinner, there to rejoice with him that the fifty intervening years had brought to him and his such a wealth of friends and fullness of life and success in the effort to build a home upon and from the fruitfulness of the virgin soil of Richardson county.

"E. C. Hill was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, on December 2, 1832, and is now in his eighty-third year. On September 19, 1856, he





ELIJAH C. HILL, SR.





married Miss Arcosh Kallerstine. On April 19, 1865, he arrived in Nebraska. On March 26, 1866, a home was established on the one hundred and sixty acres of land entered as a homestead north of Dawson. From this modest start Mr. Hill's possessions have grown until his farm, including the original homestead, comprises one thousand and forty acres, three miles north of Dawson. . . . But these broad acres do not comprise all his land holdings, for he owns a section of land near McCook, Nebraska, and a section of land in Saskatchewan, Canada.

"Mr. Hill is distinctly a farmer and stock raiser and his success has come by giving close attention to the details and much study to the planning for the harvest before the seed was committed to the soil. . . . In 1875 the grasshoppers ate up the early crops and later the same year a severe hail storm wiped off the face of the fields what remnants the hoppers had overlooked. . . . At that time Mr. Hill had a family of eight to feed and it was no easy task to keep the wolf from the door. . . . Following the plow for seventy-two years has given him a close acquaintance with the mysteries of nature and the evolution of life as manifested in the growth of crops, the development of live stock and the procession of the seasons. . . . He has never held any political or military positions. In politics he is a Republican and his church affiliations incline to the Baptists. He is a Mason." Mr. Hill died on April 1, 1916. Mrs. Hill was born on October 6, 1829, and died on October 17, 1906.

E. C. Hill, Sr., was the first farmer in the state of Nebraska to introduce and breed the famous Polled Angus cattle, of which he was a very extensive breeder. With some fine specimens of his stock he won a good many prizes at various cattle shows and his Polled Angus breed were in much demand outside the confines of his home county. He was a member of the Polled Angus Cattle Association, the Farmers' National Congress and the Corn Belt Meat Association, in all of which organizations he took an active part, his ripe experience in all matters appertaining to the breeding and care of cattle being widely sought.

Elijah C. Hill, the subject of this sketch, attended the district schools of Grant township and the Humboldt high school. When twenty-one years of age he began working as a farm hand in his home neighborhood. After a year's experience at this work he commenced clerking in a confectionery store and thus continued for about nine years. He then decided to go into the business on his own account and started a confectionery store, which he operated for a period of seven years, meeting with considerable success. He then moved to Dawson, where he also carried on the confectionery business for

two years. In 1904 he moved out to the place which was the original homestead and began farming. He was his father's overseer on the holdings until the death of the latter.

On October 11, 1896, Elijah C. Hill, Jr., was united in marriage to Mary A. Murphy, who was born at Seneca, Kansas, the daughter of Thomas and Ellen E. (Quinn) Murphy, both of whom were natives of Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Hill are parents of two children, namely: Marguerite, who is now in a convent in Falls City, this state, and Aileene, who is also in a convent at Falls City. Mr. and Mrs. Hill are earnest members of the Catholic church and liberal supporters of the same, ever ready to assist in all matters tending to the welfare of the church. Mr. Hill is a member of the Knights of Columbus and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and in the affairs of these organizations he takes considerable interest. In politics he is affiliated with the Republican party. By the terms of the will of the late E. C. Hill, he was made executor of the large estate left by his father and is ably managing it. He is continuing the breeding of thoroughbred Polled Angus cattle. He has only recently added some registered thoroughbred stock to the Hill herd. Mr. Hill has contributed liberally to the Red Cross movement and is a member of the local chapter of the Red Cross.

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#### REV. JOHN J. HOFFMAN.

The Rev. John J. Hoffman, pastor of the Catholic church of Sts. Peter and Paul at Falls City, is of European birth, but has been a resident of this country since he was eighteen years of age and of Nebraska since 1889. In June, 1895, the year of his ordination to the priesthood, he was appointed to the parish of Rulo, later being transferred to Bellwood and thence, in 1910, to Falls City, where he since has had his residence and where he has performed a notable work in behalf of the parish over which he has spiritual direction.

Father Hoffman is a native of Luxemburg, born in the grand duchy of that name on October 3, 1871, son of John J. and Catherine (Concinio) Hoffman, the latter of whom was of Spanish parentage. The elder John J. Hoffman, who was a native of Belgium, was a manufacturer in Luxemburg and late in life moved over into Germany, where he spent his last days. Until he was nine years of age the younger John J. Hoffman received his schooling in his native Luxemburg and he then was sent to an academy in



the vicinity of Liege, in Belgium, where he received a scholastic training about the same in scope as that comprised in the American high school course, after which he entered the ancient University of Treves, perhaps the oldest institution of learning in what is considered to be the oldest city in Germany. Before completing the collegiate course there he came to America and located at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he entered the high school, with a view to rounding out his acquaintance with the English language. It was in 1889 that Father Hoffman came to this country, he then being eighteen years of age. After a year of high school training in English he entered upon the prescribed course in theology and philosophy, in preparation for the service of the church, to which he had consecrated his life, and after three years of such study in Milwaukee entered St. John's University, in Minnesota, where, in 1895, he was ordained to the priesthood.

Immediately following his entrance upon Holy Orders, Father Hoffman was given charge of the Catholic parish at Rulo, this county, and he remained there for five years, doing a good work. In 1900 he was transferred to the parish at Bellwood, in Butler county, this state, and there he remained ten years, at the end of which time, in 1910, he was given charge of the church of SS. Peter and Paul at Falls City, a charge which he since has faithfully administered, long having been regarded as one of the leading clergymen of his communion in the eastern part of the state. It was in May, 1910, that Father Hoffman entered upon the duties of his priestly office at Falls City and not long after becoming settled there he took up the work of parish improvement and in a remarkably short period of time had a movement on foot that resulted in the erection of a new church edifice and parish house, the same being provided for at a cost of fifty-two thousand dollars. Since then Father Hoffman has made additional improvements, in the way of furnishings and decorations, costing no less a sum than thirteen thousand dollars; the total expenditures on parish improvement during his pastorate thus totaling about sixty-five thousand dollars, a notable work when it is considered that the parish contains but one hundred and twenty-five families. Not only in a material way has Father Hoffman advanced the interests of the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul since assuming the pastorate of the same, but equal progress has been made in a spiritual way and all departments of the work of the parish are reported progressing admirably. In the historical section of this volume, in the chapter relating to churches of Richardson county, there is presented

an admirable picture of the church, school and parish house which will give the reader a definite idea of the fine bit of church property owned by the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul.

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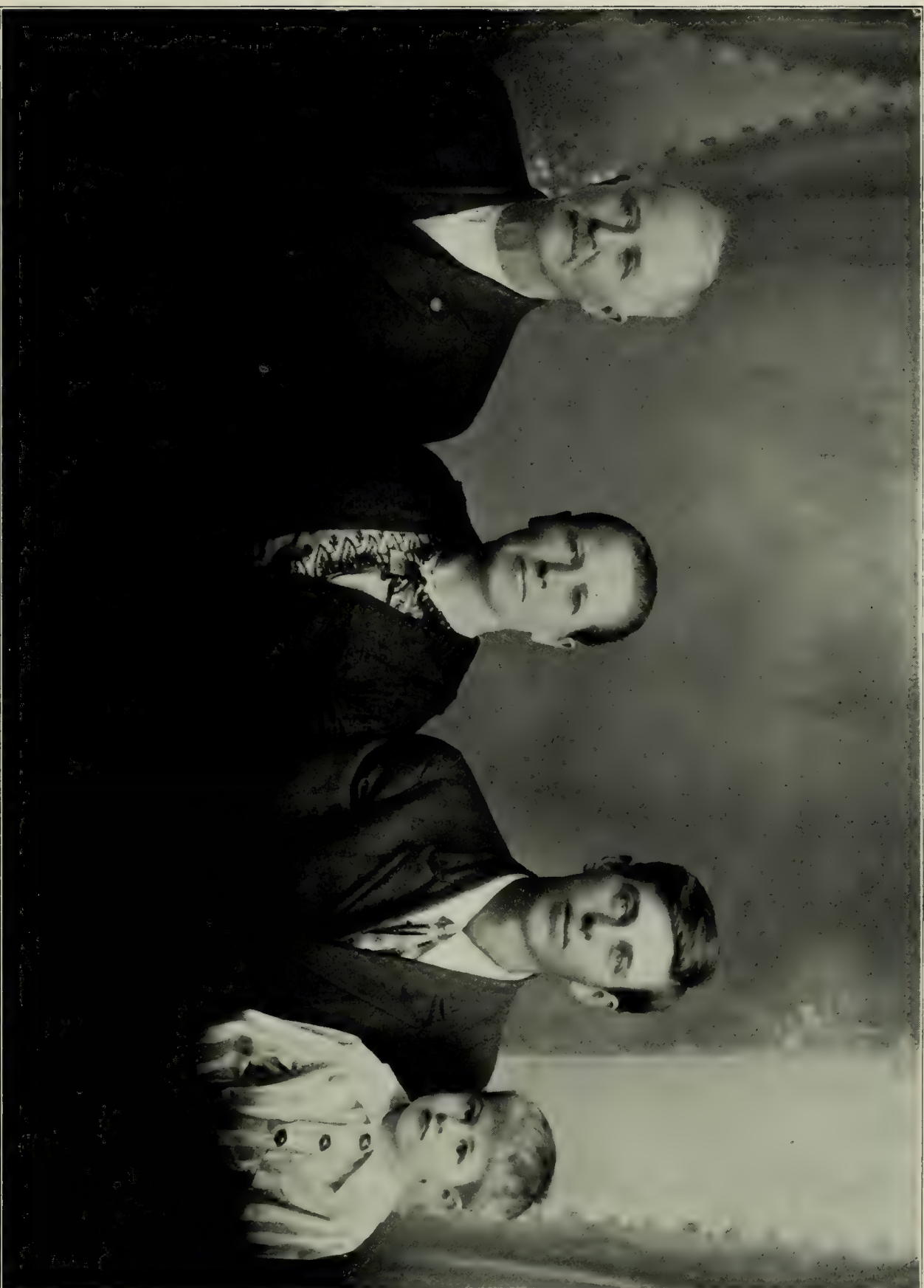
### CHARLES ALFRED STRAWN.

Charles Alfred Strawn, former justice of the peace in and for the precinct of Speiser, an honored veteran of the Civil War and one of the best-known pioneer farmers of Richardson county, proprietor of a fine farm in Grant precinct and the owner of other land in Speiser precinct, is a native of the state of Illinois, but has been a resident of this county since 1866, the year in which he came out here and entered a claim. He was born on a farm in Franklin township, DeKalb county, Illinois, February 13, 1843, son of Abner and Sarah (Hart) Strawn, natives of Canada, the former of whom was born in 1812 and the latter in 1824, who became pioneers of this county and here spent their last days.

Abner Strawn was the son of Joab Strawn, who was born in Pennsylvania, of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, and who had moved to Canada in the days of his young manhood and had married and reared his family there. Abner Strawn married in Canada and in 1842 moved to Illinois, locating on a farm in Franklin township, DeKalb county, where he reared his family and where he resided until 1867, when he disposed of his interests there and came to Nebraska, settling on a farm seven miles south and west of Humboldt, in Speiser precinct, later moving to a farm four miles southeast of Humboldt, where he spent his last days, his death occurring there in 1900. His widow survived him for nine years, her death occurring in 1911. They were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: Mrs. Mary Jane Backus, of Brown county, Kansas, died in 1888; William J., of Lamar, Colorado; Frank, deceased, and Thomas, deceased.

Charles A. Strawn grew to manhood on the farm on which he was born in Illinois, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and was living there when the Civil War broke out. On August 7, 1862, he then being nineteen years of age, he enlisted for service at Franklin, Illinois, as a member of Company G, One Hundred and Fifth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and with that command served until the close of the war, receiving his final discharge at Chicago on June 17, 1865. The One Hundred and





FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE STRAWN FAMILY: CHARLES ALFRED STRAWN,  
AGED 74 YEARS; MRS. ROSA MAY (STRAWN) WEST, AGED 50 YEARS;  
CHARLES HENRY WEST, AGED 26 YEARS; CHARLES ELGIN  
WEST, AGED 3 YEARS.





Fifth Illinois participated in some of the most stirring battles and engagements of the war and during all this strenuous service Mr. Strawn was wounded but once, a spent ball glancing off one of his ribs while fighting Wheeler's cavalry at Lawtonville, during the Carolina campaign, February 13, 1865, the wound laying him up for several days. During that battle he was in the advance guard and was lying in a ditch at the side of the road awaiting the enemy's advance when the bullet struck him. He was all through the Atlanta campaign, took part in the taking of Atlanta, having previously fought in the battles at Resaca, Cassville, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain and Peach Tree Creek, and then went on with Sherman to the sea and took part in the capture of Savannah, crossing the Savannah river in a row boat on the cold and stormy New Year Day of 1865. With the great army he then proceeded on up through the Carolinas and after the battle of Lawtonville, mentioned above, participated in the battle of Averysboro, March 17, 1865, and then, on March 19, the battle of Bentonville, the last engagement of that division. Mr. Strawn then participated in the Grand Review at Washington and with his regiment was mustered out in that city, later reporting at Chicago for final discharge.

Upon the completion of his military service Charles A. Strawn returned to his father's farm in Illinois and the next year, in 1866, came out to the then Territory of Nebraska with a view to entering a claim and establishing a home in the new country. He drove through by way of Council Bluffs, entering Richardson county via Table Rock, and after a bit of prospecting located his claim in section 21, town 1, range 13, which later came to be organized as the precinct of Speiser. He then returned home and on the following New Year Day married and straightway returned here with his bride, employing a man to drive him and his wife out from St. Joseph, the trip being made through a foot and a half of snow. He erected a cottonwood shanty on the place the next summer, 1867, and in that humble abode, with unbattened chinks and no ceiling, he and his bride began their housekeeping operations. To his original claim Mr. Strawn presently added two and one-half acres of timber land, paying for the same sixty dollars an acre and adding forty acres to his homestead. On that pioneer place he lived until 1888, meanwhile improving and developing the same in fine shape, and then traded the two hundred acres for the old Bowman homestead quarter section in Grant township on which he is now living and where he ever since has made his home, long having been very comfortably established there. Mr. Strawn has a well-kept and well-improved farm and is looked upon as one of the substantial pioneer farmers of that community.

He is a Republican and has ever taken an earnest interest in the general political affairs of the county, and has served Speiser precinct in the capacity of justice of the peace, as a school director and as constable. He is an active charter member of the William Mix Post, No. 66, Grand Army of the Republic at Humboldt, in the affairs of which patriotic organization he has for years taken a warm interest, and is also affiliated with the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Knights and Ladies of Security and the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Mr. Strawn has been twice married. On January 1, 1867, in Illinois, he was united in marriage to Emily J. Young, who was born in that state on February 22, 1849, a daughter of John and Emaline (Morris) Young, and to that union four children were born, namely: Mrs. Rosa West, who is living on the old home place; Sherman, who died in infancy; Emory M., now a resident of Los Angeles, California, and Laura, who died at the age of five years. The mother of these children died on September 5, 1876, and in March, 1877, Mr. Strawn married Mary Houser, who was born in Monroe county, Pennsylvania, January 30, 1853, and who died on December 11, 1910. To that union were born eleven children, five of whom died in infancy, those who grew to maturity being as follow: William G., who is farming the home place; Mert and Bert, deceased; Mrs. Ella Bemis, of Speiser township; Charles Alfred, Jr., who is on the home farm, and Alice A., who is her father's housekeeper. The Strawns have a pleasant home and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of the community.

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#### CHARLES E. STOLTZ.

Charles E. Stoltz, for years a well-known and successful farmer, living in Franklin precinct, this county, has recently disposed of his fine farm consisting of one hundred and sixty acres of prime land, all in an excellent state of improvement; however, he is still the owner of forty acres of land in Texas, in the irrigated section of the Rio Grande. He was born on April 23, 1870, in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, the son of William and Mary (Ulmer) Stoltz, also natives of the same county and state. William Stoltz was a son of Jacob Stoltz, a native of Germany. Mary Ulmer was the daughter of Isaac Ulmer and wife.

William Stoltz came to Richardson county from Pennsylvania in 1886 and located between Dawson and Stella, where he bought one hundred and



sixty acres of raw prairie land. He moved his family to the farm the following spring and began the task of clearing the ground for cultivation. William Stoltz was born in 1847 and died on March 20, 1915. His wife, Mary Ulmer, was born on May 31, 1849, and died on January 11, 1901. They were the parents of the following children: Charles E., the subject of this sketch; Jacob F., who lives in Aurora, Illinois; Isaac H., of Onaga, Kansas; Samuel, who lives in Chicago; William F., who lives on the home farm; Ezra W., of Jerome, Idaho; Daniel, who died in 1878; Martin, who died in 1896; Mrs. Clara Bobbitt, who lives in Jerome, Idaho, and Hattie, who lives in Porter precinct. Of these children, Charles E. was educated in the Lycoming county schools, Pennsylvania, and Jacob was graduated from the Stella high school and from the University of Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. William Stoltz were married on June 22, 1869.

Following his education, Charles E. Stoltz assisted his father in building up a home and continued in this way up to the time of his marriage in 1893. In the latter year he rented his father's farm for four years and later bought out the home place, subsequently selling it. In 1904 he moved to Dawson and for two years was engaged in the hardware and implement business and then sold out. In 1906 Mr. Stoltz bought an improved farm near Holdridge, Phillips county, this state. He was the second man to pay fifty dollars an acre for land in that locality, and sold his holding at an enhanced price of seventy-five dollars an acre. He then moved to Franklin precinct, this county, and bought the farm, which he vacated about twelve months ago, paying one hundred dollars an acre for the same in 1908. This tract of one hundred and sixty acres he parted with in 1916, obtaining one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre for the land.

On February 9, 1893, Charles E. Stoltz was united in marriage to Anna Heim, who was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, on February 11, 1869, daughter of John J. and Rosina Heim, also natives of that state. Further mention of this branch of the Heim family will be found in another part of this work in a sketch relating to Israel Heim. To Mr. and Mrs. Stoltz four children have been born, as follow: Esther, born on June 25, 1895; Iva, December 27, 1900; Carl, December 30, 1904, and Mildred, October 20, 1908.

Mr. Stoltz is a Democrat, but has never sought public office. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Modern Woodmen, and in the affairs of both organizations he takes a warm interest. He and his wife and family are members of the United Evangelical church.

## EDWARD UHRI.

The name of Edward Uhri of Humboldt, needs no introduction to the readers of this book, since he has long been active in the affairs of Richardson county, and is one of our leading farmers and business men. He was born on May 14, 1864, on his present farm, being the scion of a pioneer family; in fact, his birth occurred in a corn crib, his parents, John Matthew and Barbara (Lutz) Uhri, having started in life here with little of this world's goods. The father was born in Germany, April 19, 1823, and died on July 1, 1904. The mother was born in Baden, Germany, February 4, 1827, and died on February 8, 1886. They grew up in their native land and crossed the Atlantic together and were married at New Orleans, Louisiana, March 28, 1849. Later, in 1855, they ascended the Mississippi and Missouri rivers by steamboat to St. Joseph, Missouri, and drove over from there to Richardson county, where they took up a homestead, a part of which is now included in the place belonging to the subject of this sketch. Here they endured the usual privations and hardships incident to pioneer life, but through hard work and perseverance succeeded in becoming well established. For some time they occupied the same house with the Speiser family. St. Joseph was their nearest market. This was still an Indian domain, but the red men were friendly and never molested the settlers. They once, while Mr. Uhri was on a trip to St. Joseph, came to Mrs. Uhri for food and she divided her supply of meal with them. To Mr. and Mrs. John M. Uhri the following children were born: John, who lives in Speiser precinct; George, deceased; Mrs. Carrie Stecker, who lives in Colorado; August, who makes his home in Denver; Edward, the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Sophia Case, who lives in Colorado.

Edward Uhri grew up on the home farm, where he worked hard when a boy. He attended the district schools and the Humboldt schools, remaining with his parents until he was twenty-three years old, when he rented land from his father. He bought his first land in 1890 from his father, and went in debt nine thousand dollars. He managed well and gradually increased his holdings until now he owns five hundred and forty acres of excellent land in the vicinity of Humboldt, which is well improved and under a high state of cultivation. Here he carries on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale. Part of his land lies in Speiser township. He engaged also in the automobile business in 1912 at Dawson, and now has a garage at Humboldt. He also sells gas tractors and is interested in







WILLIAM W. JENNE.



the banking business at Humboldt. He has met with encouraging success in whatever he has turned his attention to. He still resides on his farm, where he has a commodious and attractive home. Everything about his place denotes thrift and prosperity, as well as good taste. His place lies five miles south of Humboldt. He has made all the improvements on this farm, which is one of the most desirable in the county. Politically, Mr. Uhri is a Republican. He belongs to the Methodist church.

On January 20, 1886, Edward Uhri married Mary Elizabeth Bartz, who was born on March 26, 1857, in Carroll county, Ohio, a daughter of John G. and Margaret (Hammer) Bartz, whose family consisted of ten children. John G. Bartz was born in Wurtemberg, Germany. He came to America when a young man and settled in Ohio, and about the year 1883 took up his residence in Nebraska and for about six years thereafter was engaged in farming in Humboldt precinct, this county. He then went to Los Angeles, California, where his death occurred in December, 1903, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. The mother of Mrs. Uhri was born in Byrom, Germany, and her death occurred in 1883, at the age of fifty-three years. To Mr. and Mrs. Uhri two children have been born: Lulu Mae, wife of Ralph Tjaden, of Humboldt, and another, who died in infancy.

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#### WILLIAM W. JENNE.

One of the successful business men of Richardson county is William W. Jenne, of Falls City, who has one of the finest ladies ready-to-wear stores in the state of Nebraska. His success in business has been due to advertising, he having been the first business man in his city to run a full page advertisement, which resulted in his name and that of his firm being very widely distributed. He also put up signs and posters for miles around. In his earlier career he was a millwright, carpenter and building contractor, becoming a highly skilled mechanic, but it has been in the mercantile world that his talents have shown with peculiar luster.

Mr. Jenne was born in Essex county, New York, March 20, 1850, a son of Nehemiah and Rebecca (Nye) Jenne. The father was born in Vermont, March 1, 1822, and died at the age of sixty-five years. The mother was born in Essex county, New York, March 3, 1824, and died, March 7, 1910, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. To these parents five children were born, William W., Ziba, Mary, Isadore and Carrie, all

now deceased but the subject of this sketch and Mrs. Carrie Blanchard, who makes her home in Lake Placid, New York.

William W. Jenne spent his boyhood in his native state and attended the village schools until he was fifteen years of age, then spent two terms at the academy at Plattsburg, New York. He then taught school a while, and also learned two useful trades about this period of his life. On October 12, 1873, he married Florence Murch, of Clintonville, New York, Rev. David N. Lewis, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church of that city, performing the ceremony. She is a daughter of Horace Bingham Murch and Safrona Darling (Ferrin) Murch. Mrs. Jenne's father died in New Mexico in 1880, at the age of sixty-two years. His wife had preceded him to the grave in 1853 at Jay, New York, at the early age of thirty years. To Mr. and Mrs. Murch five children were born, Ellen, George, Annie, Byron and Florence, all now deceased but two, Byron, who makes his home in the state of Idaho, and Florence, the wife of Mr. Jenne. The union of William W. Jenne and wife has resulted in the birth of three children, namely: Harry, born in Clintonville, New York, in 1876; William, born in Sabetha, Kansas; in 1880, who died in Falls City, Nebraska, in 1904, at the age of twenty-four years, and Ralph, born in Falls City, in 1883.

Mr. Jenne came to Missouri in 1877 and taught school at Forest City during the following winter. In the spring of 1878 he associated himself with the firm of H. L. Williams & Company at that place. In the spring of 1880 the firm moved to Sabetha, Kansas, and opened up business under the firm name of E. B. Gearhardt & Company. H. L. Williams of St. Joseph, Missouri, owned one-half interest in the firm and E. B. Gearhardt and William W. Jenne each one-fourth interest. This business relation continued for three years. In the spring of 1883 Mr. Jenne located at Falls City, and engaged in the general mercantile business, associating himself with W. W. Wheeler, of St. Joseph, a member of the well-known firm of Tootle, Hosea & Company. This fortunate union gave Mr. Jenne almost an unlimited credit, and for four years he prospered. In 1887 he traded his merchandise, in part, for what is now known as the Jenne Opera House block. He then accepted a position with the firm of Tootle, Hosea & Company, as salesman for the state of Nebraska, which position he held for several years, giving the firm entire satisfaction and doing much to increase the business prestige of the same in this state. Upon his resignation he accepted a position with a New York silk house, covering several states. Through speculation this firm later failed. Mr. Jenne then remained in



Falls City for a few years, and there purchased the Houston & Moran stock of general merchandise, when this firm failed in business. After keeping this stock a short time he traded it for a farm south of Sabetha, in Brown county, Kansas. For a number of years he has been covering fourteen states for the Palace Silk Mills, through Charles Wolff & Company of New York, selling their products only in the larger towns and cities. On September 12, 1914, he and his son, Ralph H. Jenne, opened to the public the superbly appointed and magnificent ladies ready-to-wear store in Falls City, under the firm name of the R. H. Jenne Company. It is universally regarded as one of the most attractive and systematically arranged stores in the state. The venture has proved to be a great success. An extensive and carefully selected stock of goods is carried at all seasons and the store would do credit to a city much larger than the county seat of Richardson county. The firm serves a very wide territory, many of its best customers coming from long distances, knowing that here they will not only have a splendid stock to select from but that they will receive fair and courteous treatment. Mr. Jenne is also owner of the Burt Johnson drug store building, the Jenne Opera House building and a fine, modern brick residence, all in Falls City, also several tracts of land in Oklahoma.

Mr. Jenne is a Democrat and has long been one of the leaders of his party in southeastern Nebraska. During one of the campaigns of William J. Bryan he served under "Coin" Harvey as county chairman of Richardson county, doing excellent work. At that time the county was Republican by about three hundred and seventy-five majority, and when the returns of the elections were tabulated it was discovered that the Democratic majority amounted to three hundred and sixty-five. Mr. Jenne also served two terms as supervisor of Richardson county, was chairman of the county bridge committee and chairman of the buildings and grounds committee of the county for both terms. This gave him an opportunity for introducing a better system of bridge building which has resulted in saving the taxpayers of the county hundreds of dollars. Another saving to Richardson county and a benefit to the relatives and friends of the inmates of the poor farm was the establishment of a cemetery at the poor farm, which he was instrumental in bringing about. Prior to that time the inmates of the poor farm were buried in the Steele cemetery, in the paupers' field, the county paying for the ground, digging the graves and providing for the burial.

Mr. Jenne belongs to the following organizations: Knights of Pythias, Ancient Order of United Workmen, Modern Woodmen of America, Royal

Highlanders the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and last, but not least, the Booster Club, of Falls City. He has been very successful in a business way, being a man of rare soundness of judgment and executive ability. His public spirit has never been questioned. He has done much to increase the prestige of his home city and to make it a good place in which to live. Personally, he has the confidence and respect of all who know him, being a man of obliging and genial manners and unquestioned integrity.

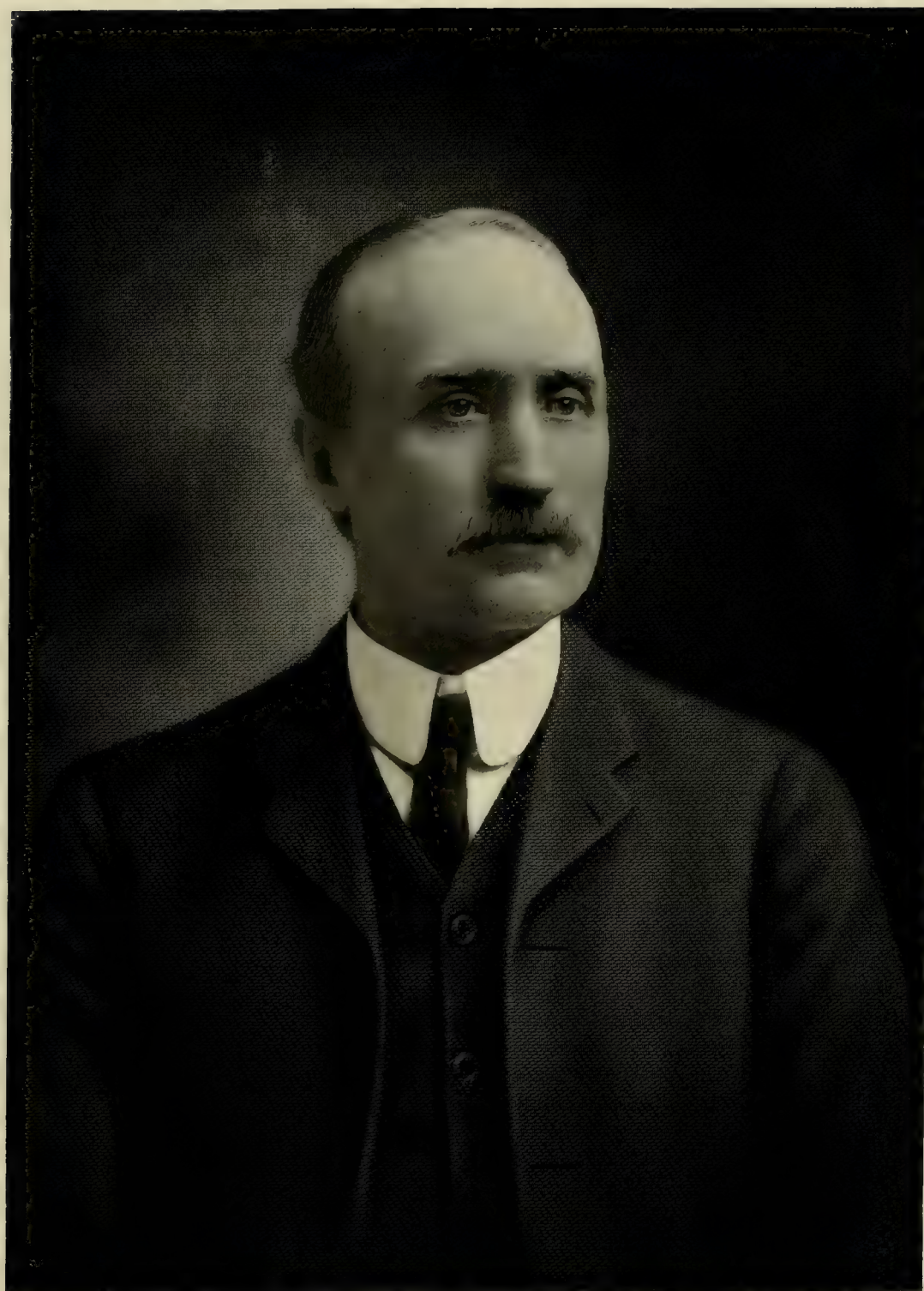
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### ALBERT RUSSELL KEIM.

Albert Russell Keim, editor and proprietor of the *Falls City Journal*, one of the best-known newspaper men and lawyers in eastern Nebraska, former judge of the probate court of Richardson county, former police judge of Falls City and for years one of the leaders of the Republican party in this county, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of Nebraska and of this county since he was twelve years of age and has therefore been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region practically since pioneer days. He was born near the village of Stoyestown, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, February 22, 1859, son of Christian Livengood and Amanda Corday (Will) Keim, both natives of that same county, who later became useful and influential pioneers of this county, the former of whom spent his last days in Falls City, his widow dying while on a visit at Ft. Collins, Colorado.

The Keims are of the old Mennonite, Amish or Dunker stock, so largely represented in the hill country of southwestern Pennsylvania and have been established as a family in this country since early Colonial days. Johannes Keim, believed to be the first of the name in America, was in Pennsylvania prospecting for a location in 1698. He returned to Germany and came back with his wife to remain in 1707, settling in Berks county, Pennsylvania. His son, John Keim, was born in Oley, Pennsylvania, in 1711. This John Keim is supposed to be the father of Peter Keim, born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, who was the father of six sons and two daughters, among whom was numbered Nicholas Keim, born in that same county on February 2, 1768, and who died in Somerset county, same state, October 18, 1830. Nicholas Keim was married three times and was the father of twenty-four children, among whom was Jonas Keim, born in Somerset county on March 11, 1803, who married Sarah Livengood and had twelve





A. R. Keim





children, among whom was numbered Christian Livengood Keim, the father of the subject of this sketch. Jonas Keim was for years a leader of the Dunker people in his community and for some time represented that district in the Pennsylvania Legislature. He also served as associate judge of the court and was a man of extensive affairs, his principal activities being noted in the cattle business and farming, and at the time of his death was rated to be worth in the neighborhood of seventy-five thousand dollars, a considerable fortune for that time and place.

Christian Livengood Keim, son of Jonas and Sarah (Livengood) Keim, was born in Elklick township, Somerset county, Pennsylvania, December 16, 1829, and grew to manhood there, following his father's line as a cattle buyer and drover, doing an extensive business in that line. After his marriage in 1857 he established his home in his native county and was living there when the Civil War broke out. He was reared firm in the faith of the Dunker church, which faith forbids the taking up of arms, and though an ardent sympathizer with the cause of the Union did not enlist for service in the army, rendering his service to the cause by furnishing cattle for the use of the army. While on one of his quests over the line South to deliver cattle to the United States army he was captured by the enemy and was for five months a prisoner in Libby Prison, though a non-combatant. He also operated a farm, flour-mill, tannery and distillery at Pine Mills, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania. This he sold about 1869 and came West to seek a new location. He was favorably impressed with Nebraska and bought a farm near Falls City. During 1869 and 1870, he was engaged in selling land located in Thayer and Nuckoll counties, Nebraska, which he had entered at the United States land office, paying two dollars and a half an acre for that within the railroad grant and one dollar and a quarter an acre for that outside of the two-mile limit; this he sold at a good profit in Pennsylvania. When Congress, in 1870, required six months residence on the land to pre-emptors this business was cut off and, in 1871, Christian L. Keim with his family came to Falls City, where he built a residence at 1903 Stone street. In that same year or in the next year he established the Falls City Bank.

What with the crop failures due to the dry years and the grasshoppers, together with the general panicky depression of that period, this pioneer bank was doomed to failure and, in 1877, was compelled to close its doors, Mr. Keim, as well as some others, losing quite heavily in the crash. Upon the failure of this bank Mr. Keim engaged in cultivating a farm not far

from Falls City, until his death, June 30, 1883. His widow and children continued to operate the farm until 1907 when it was sold at one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre, that being the highest price paid for a quarter-section tract in Richardson county up to that date, for agricultural purposes. The widow moved to Falls City in the spring of 1908 and on August 8, 1908, while on a visit at Ft. Collins, Colorado, died unexpectedly, being at the time past seventy-three years of age.

It was on December 8, 1857, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, that Christian L. Keim was united in marriage to Amanda Corday Will, who was born in that same county on February 14, 1835, a daughter of John and Nancy (Scott) Will, and to this union were born eight children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the first born, the others being as follow: Carrie Alwilda, born near Stoyestown, Pennsylvania; Mary Martha, born near Stoyestown, who died at Falls City, this county, January 3, 1886; Grace Greenwood, born near Stoyestown, who died at Falls City on May 6, 1890; John Brown Keim, born near Stoyestown, who married, at Enid, Oklahoma, Kate Alford and has one child, a son, Jerome; Jennie S., born near Stoyestown; Will Seward Keim, born at Falls City, who married there, Fernanda R. Godfirnon, to which union six children have been born, John, who died in infancy; Paul, Grace Corday, Will Seward, Mary Aletha and Martha, the last-named of whom died on June 17, 1915, and Clement Leroy Keim, born at Falls City, who died on November 22, 1881.

Albert Russell Keim was twelve years of age when his family came from Pennsylvania to this county in the spring of 1871, arriving at Falls City on May 5 of that year. The family came by rail to Hiawatha and thence up here by stage, the trip proving a great adventure for the boy, Russell, who still vividly recalls the incidents of the journey out into the then frontier country. He completed the course in the public schools of Falls City and then entered the State University at Lincoln, from which he was graduated in 1881, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Upon leaving college Mr. Keim was employed as assistant principal of the high school at Falls City, and was thus engaged for two years, later serving for a time as principal of the high school at Brownville. In the meantime he had been giving his leisure time to the study of law and, in 1887, was admitted to the bar and opened an office for the practice of his profession at Falls City, where he has ever since been actively engaged in practice, though of late years his chief attention has been given to his newspaper. During the legislative sessions of 1895 and 1899 Mr. Keim served as assist-



ant secretary of the state Senate; in 1901 he was again assistant secretary of the Senate, and in 1903 served as secretary of that body. In the fall of 1895 he was elected judge of the probate court and served in that office for two years, 1896-97. Previously he had served as justice of the peace in and for the precinct of Falls City and as judge of the Falls City police court. Judge Keim is an ardent Republican and has served his party as chairman of the county central committee and as a member of the state central committee.

On May 3, 1909, Judge Keim took charge of the plant of the *Falls City Journal*, the former proprietor of which had "gone broke," and entered upon the somewhat difficult task of reviving the newspaper; after some years of earnest and laborious effort restoring the paper to a self-supporting basis and putting it on a substantial financial footing, having made it one of the leading daily newspapers of eastern Nebraska and of the wide territory it serves. By prudent and enterprising direction Judge Keim has built up the *Journal's* circulation to a point exceeding two thousand and by his direct and independent attitude in the conduct of his editorial columns has made the paper a power of usefulness in the community. The *Journal* has an up-to-date and well-equipped plant, and is recognized among newspaper men as one of the strong newspapers of the state.

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### JAMES B. DAVIS.

The present popular and efficient postmaster at Humboldt, James B. Davis, is well known in Richardson county, where he has long maintained his residence and where he has won the respect of all who know him. He was born at Jackson Center, Shelby county, Ohio, March 21, 1862, a son of Jacob M. and Jane S. (Furrow) Davis, both natives of Ohio. Calvin Davis, the paternal grandfather, was a native of Virginia, of Welsh descent. He was an early settler in Shelby county, Ohio. Jacob M. Davis devoted his active life to farming. He came to Nebraska in 1864, and located on the prairie three miles northwest of Humboldt, developing into a good farm a practically wild piece of prairie land. He moved to Kansas in 1883, and later went to the Pacific coast, locating in the state of Washington, where he spent the rest of his life, dying in July, 1912. His wife had preceded him to the grave in 1874. They were parents of the following children: E. A., of Tonkawa, Oklahoma; J. S., of Lincoln, Ne-

braska, who is engaged in the real-estate and loan business in Humboldt; James B., the subject of this sketch; L. M., who lives near Castle Rock, Oregon; Mrs. Rebecca Knight, who lives in Taft, Oregon, and Mrs. Flora Beck, who makes her home at Kelso, Washington.

On June 20, 1917, James B. Davis had rounded out just fifty years in Richardson county. During this long period he saw the county develop from practically a wild prairie to its present high state of prosperity, with its fine farms and substantial towns. He grew up on the home farm and was educated in the common schools. He left home in 1882 when twenty years old and began learning the blacksmith's trade. He then engaged in the saloon business for a period of twenty-seven years, selling out on May 1, 1910, after which he conducted a garage for two years. He then served as mayor of Humboldt two years, then farmed for a while. He owns thirty acres of rich land at Humboldt. He was appointed postmaster on August 23, 1916, for a term of four years and is now filling the office acceptably both to the department and to the people. Politically, he is a Democrat. Fraternally, he belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge, which he joined twenty-five years ago. He is past chancellor commander of Humboldt Pythians and is a member of the grand lodge of Nebraska, having represented Humboldt lodge in the sessions of the grand lodge, of which he has been a member for fifteen years.

On December 27, 1897, Mr. Davis was married to Lorena Kline, who was born October 10, 1865, in Perry county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Stephen and Olive (Steele) Kline, and who was three years old when her father died in 1868. Mrs. Kline later came to Nebraska and settled in Richardson county in 1872, joining the Steele family, she being a niece of Charles, Joseph and John Steele. She taught school at Falls City for a period of twelve years, and taught for two years at Stella, and two years at Humboldt. She at one time made a long visit in Pennsylvania among old home friends and scenes. She spent her last days in Humboldt with Mr. and Mrs. Davis. Her death occurring in August, 1912. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kline: Lorena, wife of Mr. Davis, and Charles, who died in youth.

During Mr. Davis's incumbency as mayor of Humboldt he did much for the general improvement of the town. It was then that the splendid concrete band stand and fountain in the city park was built. It was erected in honor of O. J. Tinker, who gave the park to the city. During his administration the waterworks plant was connected with the springs two and one-



half miles northeast of Humboldt, which furnish what is regarded as possibly the best water in the state, its analysis showing that it is ninety-nine per cent pure, and which provides an unfailing water supply for the town. The splendid sewer system which Humboldt possesses was installed during his administration, through Mr. Davis's energy and persistence. This system is unique, inasmuch as it was built by private subscription.

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### WILLIAM W. JAMES.

William W. James, one of the best-known and most substantial retired farmers of the northern part of this county and the proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in the precinct of East Muddy, who since 1907 has been making his home at Shubert, where he and his wife are very comfortably situated, is a native of Wales, but has been a resident of this country since he was five years of age and of Nebraska since he was nineteen. He was born in South Wales, January 1, 1848, son of Evan and Mary Ann (Thomas) Watkins, the former of whom died in 1849, the subject of this sketch then being but an infant. The Widow Watkins later married John T. James and her son by her first marriage has ever since been known by the name of James instead of Watkins.

In 1854 John T. James left his native Wales with his family and came to the United States, proceeding to Pottsville, Pennsylvania, a short time later moving to Pomeroy, in Meigs county, Ohio, where he remained until 1865, in the spring of which year he came out to the then Territory of Nebraska and bought a tract of land in the precinct of East Muddy, in this county, returning then to his home in Chicago with a view to bringing his family out here to settle on the farm. Before these plans could be carried into effect his wife died in December, 1865, and was buried in Ohio. Not long afterward, in 1866, Mr. James brought his children out here to the farm he had bought the year before and there established his home. In 1867 he married Margaret Griffith, who died in December, 1868, and in 1871 he married Elizabeth Jenkins, who remained his helpmate until death, both dying in the same month, in February, 1906. John T. James developed a good farm in East Muddy precinct, becoming the owner of three hundred acres of excellent land, and there spent his last days. By his first wife, mother of the subject of this sketch, he was the father of five children, namely: Mrs. Elizabeth Higgins, who died in 1914; Jacob T., who died in 1913;

Mrs. Helen Matthews, also deceased; Benjamin, of Sunnyside, Washington, and John, who was killed by a horse in his youth.

Upon coming out to Nebraska with his stepfather in 1866 William W. James entered heartily upon the labors of helping to develop and improve the home place and there remained until after his marriage, when, in 1870, he began farming for himself, investing the proceeds of his share of the sale of his father's old farm back in Wales in the purchase of a farm of three hundred and seventeen acres adjoining that of his stepfather in East Muddy precinct, paying for the same four dollars and fifty cents an acre, land now worth from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars an acre. On that place he established his home and there he and his wife continued to reside, prospering in their operations, until 1907, when they retired from the farm and moved to Shubert, where they have since made their residence. Formerly Mr. James was a Republican but later became a Democrat and on local issues has long voted independently. For some time he served as assessor of his home precinct and in other ways has contributed of his time and energies to the public service.

On December 7, 1869, William W. James was united in marriage to Elizabeth Jones, also a native of Wales, born on August 17, 1849, daughter of Jonas and Mary Ann (Evans) Jones, who came to the United States in 1853 and settled at Pomeroy, Meigs county, Ohio, remaining there until 1869, when they came to Nebraska and settled in Aspinwall precinct over the line in the county of Nemaha, not far from the James place. Jonas Jones, who was born in 1837, died in February, 1903. His wife, who was born in 1826, had preceded him to the grave about nine years, her death having occurred in 1894. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom seven are still living, those besides Mrs. James being as follow: Mrs. Sarah Taggart, of Trout Lake, Washington; Lance, of Shubert, this county; John, who is farming in Nemaha county; Morgan, also a Nemaha county farmer; Mrs. Margaret Lambert, of Kearney, this state, and Mrs. Anna Williams, of Nemaha county.

To William W. and Elizabeth (Jones) James seven children have been born, namely: Mrs. Mary Gillilan, of Auburn, this state, who has one child, a son, James; Edward, of Stella, who married Laura Armstrong; Arthur W., who married Anna Hellwig, formerly of New York, and is now located at Prescott, Arizona; Mrs. Ella Holmes, of Lincoln, this state; John, who died at the age of ten years; Ella, who died at the age of six years, and Lela, who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. James are members of the Bap-



tist church and have ever taken an interested part in church work, as well as in other neighborhood good works. Mr. James is a member of the local lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and takes an active interest in Masonic affairs.

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### JOSEPH WINDLE.

There are, naturally, in a great grain country like southeastern Nebraska, a large number of elevators, and one of the best known in Richardson county is that owned and conducted by Joseph Windle at Salem, where he is also engaged in farming and the live-stock business.

Mr. Windle was born on October 1, 1847, in Shenandoah county, Virginia, a son of William and Mary (Kretzsinger) Windle, both natives of Virginia, the father born in 1807 and the mother, in 1810. They grew up in their native state and were married there, establishing the family home on a farm in Shenandoah county. In 1855 they removed to Ogle county, Illinois, where they spent the rest of their lives on a farm, the father dying in 1878 and the mother in 1874. They were members of the Lutheran church. Ten children were born to them, two of whom are now deceased, Joseph Windle being the seventh in order of birth.

Joseph Windle was eight years old when his parents moved to Ogle county, Illinois, and there he grew to manhood on the farm and attended the public schools. In the fall of 1872 he came to Nebraska and for a number of years rented land in Liberty precinct, Richardson county, where, in 1883, he bought a farm of eighty acres, which he operated until 1892, when he sold out and moved to Salem, where he has since resided. He had bought the Salem grain elevator in 1890 and has conducted the same ever since. He also has bought and shipped live stock in large numbers from Salem during the past twenty-five years. Although during this period he has been busy with his elevator and live stock business, he has also continued farming, owning a valuable place of seventy-two and one-half acres near the Burlington depot at Salem.

Mr. Windle was married on March 2, 1872, to Anna Belle Price, who was born in Pennsylvania on July 2, 1850, a daughter of George and Rebecca Jane (Cornelius) Price, the latter a native of Pennsylvania and the former of Germany, from which country he came to Pennsylvania when a child and there spent the rest of his life. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Windle, namely: Mrs. Hattie A. Metz, deceased; Fred R., who is

engaged in the grain commission business at St. Joseph, with the Garnell-Windle Grain Company; Oliver P., who is engaged in the live-stock commission business in St. Joseph, Missouri; Grace, deceased; Joseph E., who is engaged in the lumber business in Salem, this county; Dean K., who is connected with the bank at Wymore, this state, and Wayne, who is operating an elevator at Fortescue, Missouri. Mr. Windle is a Democrat and has served as a member of the school board. He and Mrs. Windle belong to the Congregational church.

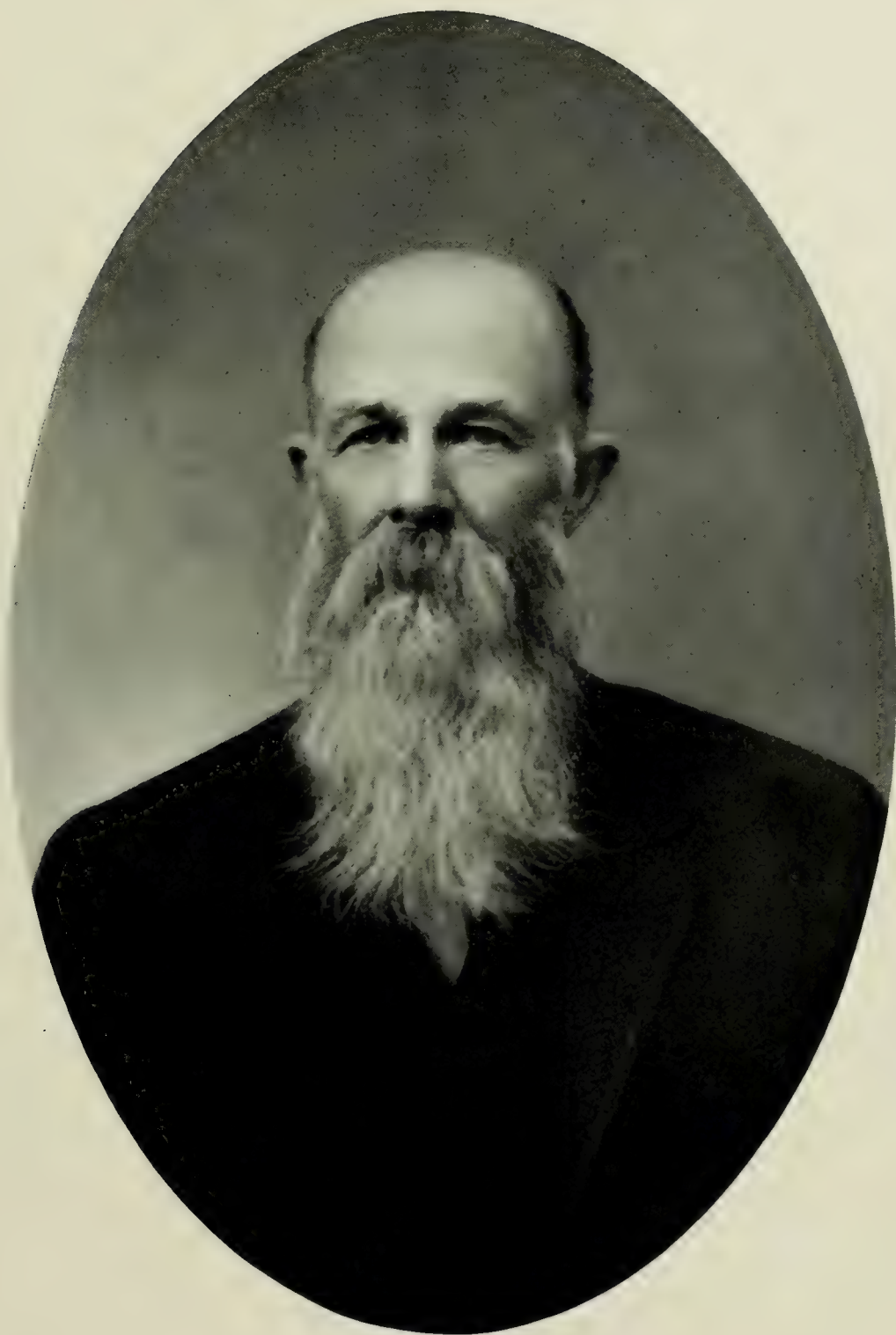
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### EDMOND J. DURFEE.

Among the real "old-timers" of Richardson county there are few who are better known throughout the county than is Edmond J. Durfee, a retired pioneer farmer of the precinct of Rulo, who is now living at Falls City, where he and his wife are very comfortably situated in their pleasant home at 2012 North Fulton street. Mr. Durfee has been a resident of Nebraska since the spring of 1859 and has consequently been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since territorial days, few men now living in the county having a more thorough acquaintance with the conditions that confronted the pioneers here back in the latter fifties and early sixties than has he, and when in a reminiscent mood he is a veritable "mine of information" on matters relating to the early settlement of this part of the state.

Edmond J. Durfee is a native of the neighboring state of Iowa, born at Black Hawk on March 7, 1849, a son of Edmond and Caroline E. (Clark) Durfee, both natives of the state of New York, who became pioneers of this section of Nebraska back in territorial days and here spent the remainder of their lives, honored and useful pioneers of Richardson county; though the former did not live long to continue the useful work upon which he had entered upon coming to this region, his death occurring at Winnebago on January 19, 1861, but a few years after coming here from the state of Iowa. He was born in New York on September 3, 1815, and was therefore but forty-five years of age at the time of his death. His widow survived him many years. She continued to make her home in this county after her husband's death and died at Salem on January 20, 1901. She was born, also in the state of New York, on August 12, 1822, and was therefore in the seventy-ninth year of her age at the time of her death. Edmond





EDMOND J. DUFEE.





Durfee and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others having been Russell K., Mary A., Celia and Louis. Russell K. Durfee was born in Missouri, September 1, 1836, and died at his home at Winnebago, this state, June 25, 1917. Mary A. Durfee was born at Ft. Des Moines, Iowa, March 27, 1851, and was but a child when she came to Nebraska with her parents, in 1859. She married J. R. Babbitt and was the mother of four children, James Babbitt, Sylvia Babbitt, Mrs. Gay Sisco, of Burchard, and Charles Babbitt. Mrs. Babbitt died at her home in Rulo on February 26, 1890. Celia Durfee was born in Iowa on October 28, 1856, and was about three years of age when her parents came to Nebraska. She married Jefferson Gentry, of Salem, this county, and has four children, Daniel, Clarence, Albert and Lloyd. Louis Durfee was born at Winnebago, this state, October 14, 1860, and is now living in the state of Minnesota.

The senior Edmond Durfee was a millwright and builder by vocation and for some years after moving from New York state to Iowa followed that vocation in the latter state. In 1857 he and Louis Darvean, Jarvis Durfee, his brother, and E. H. Johnson came over from Iowa to the then Territory of Nebraska to build a mill for Charles Rulo and erected the first mill to be built on the Muddy. That pioneer mill, which occupied the site of the present mill at that place, was successfully operated for a time and then was accidentally destroyed by fire. Upon completing the Rulo mill Mr. Durfee, accompanied by Louis Darvean and Bruno Cornearry, went to Winnebago on the Missouri river, where they erected a mill for a man of the name of Pecot, who was doing an extensive business there, and at that place Mr. Durfee died in 1861, as noted above. In 1859, two years after he came to Nebraska, Edmond Durfee moved his family from Iowa to Nebraska, driving through from Iowa in a covered wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen, and arrived at Winnebago on May 10 of that year. After his death the family home was established in Richardson county and, as noted above, here his widow spent her last days.

Edmond J. Durfee was but ten years of age when he came to Nebraska with his parents in 1859 and he completed his schooling in the primitive schools of Richardson county. He was reared on a farm and early became a practical farmer. After his marriage, in 1871, he for four years made his home on a bottoms-land farm in the precinct of Rulo, where he had a rather disastrous experience. He improved that bottom-land farm, spending upwards of sixteen hundred dollars upon the same, and then traded it for a span of horses and two pigs, because of the fact that the treacherous

and ever-hungry Missouri river was encroaching on the land and carrying the soil away. It began to look as though the river would carry away all of the farm, so Mr. Durfee traded it off for what he could get. In 1874 he "hired out" to John R. Smith and worked for Mr. Smith for three years, at the end of which time he rented the Smith farm and farmed the same for one year. He next rented a place three miles north of Rulo, for three years, and used his savings to buy a farm eight miles northeast of Falls City, in the precinct of Arago. That place, a tract of three hundred and forty acres, he brought up to a high state of cultivation and development. He also engaged quite extensively in the raising of cattle and soon became recognized as one of the most progressive and substantial farmers in the eastern part of the county. In 1904 Mr. Durfee retired from the farm and moved to Falls City, but afterward returned to the farm and there continued to make his home until 1911, in which year he returned to Falls City, where he has since made his home, having a tidy bit of property there in addition to his valuable farming interests. Mr. Durfee is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, having for years served as a member of the school district in his old home district in Arago.

Mr. Durfee has been thrice married. On June 2, 1871, he was united in marriage to Cordelia A. Carr, who was born in 1855 and who was but eleven years of age when her parents, Eli and Catherine Carr, came to Nebraska and settled at Rulo in 1866. To that union were born two children, Edmond, who died in infancy, and Mark J., born on January 12, 1874, near Rulo, and who is now residing on a farm eight miles northeast of Falls City. The mother of these children died in 1879 and on June 8, 1880, at Rulo, Mr. Durfee married Maria L. Montgomery, who was born at White Pigeon, Illinois, October 4, 1849, and who came to Nebraska with her parents, Charles and Elizabeth (Jones) Montgomery, in 1863. To that union were born two children, Edward E., born on January 11, 1882, on the farm eight miles northeast of Falls City, where he still resides, and Amantha, who died in infancy. On March 1, 1906, Mr. and Mrs. Durfee left the farm and moved to Falls City, where Mrs. Durfee shortly afterward was taken ill and where she died on the 27th of that same month. After this bereavement Mr. Durfee returned to the farm and there made his home with his son, Edward E. Durfee and family, until November 28, 1910, on which date he was united in marriage to Isabelle Elshire, who came to this county with her parents, Ephraim and Maria Elshire, in 1860, the family settling at Rulo. After his last marriage Mr.



Durfee again established his home in Falls City, where he and his wife are now living.

Edward E. Durfee, who is now managing his father's place in Arago precinct, where he makes his home, was united in marriage on August 26, 1903, to Jessie L. Waggoner, who was born on a farm twelve miles north-east of Falls City, in this county, March 9, 1883, where her parents, Riley D. and Martha J. (Anderson) Waggoner, still reside. To this union six children have been born, Maryee, Opal, Agnes, Blanche, Edward and Martha. The first-named of these children, Maryee, born on June 17, 1904, died on March 1, 1914.

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### RALPH R. PHILPOT.

One of the most enterprising of the younger generation of business men of western Richardson county is Ralph R. Philpot, a lumber and coal dealer in Humboldt, where he was born, February 14, 1884, and he has been content to spend his life in his native town. He is a son of Samuel M. and Winnie A. (Moon) Philpot, an old and highly esteemed pioneer family of this section of Nebraska. The father, Samuel Morrow Philpot, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, January 22, 1851, and died on November 22, 1916, when nearly sixty-six years old. He came to Nebraska in 1868, first locating at Omaha, where he resided for about a year. He then went to Rulo and for two years he held a position in a bank and general store, later taking a position with a lumber company at Salem, where he lived until 1874, when he moved to Humboldt. Mr. Philpot brought with him into the West a rugged and strong physique, indomitable energy and full measure of honesty, industry and courage, and was thus well fitted for the hardships that confront the pioneer. During these early years he laid the foundation upon which he builded a business of considerable magnitude.

Samuel M. Philpot was a son of Robert and Susan (West) Philpot. The mother was born August 5, 1826, in Carroll county, Ohio, and she and Robert Philpot were married in 1847. Soon thereafter they moved to Nebraska and settled on a farm one and one-half miles south of Humboldt, where they spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring on February 28, 1897. She passed away on April 2, 1915, at an advanced age. They were parents of the following children, namely: James W., Samuel M. (father of the subject of this sketch), Mrs. Belle Adams, of Lisbon, Ohio; Mrs. Tina Crawford, Hugh D., John R., William H., Mrs. E. S. Cope and Charles P. Seven of the nine children survive, and all live in Hum-

boldt, except Mrs. Adams, and Mrs. Tina Crawford, the last named making her home in Montana.

Samuel M. Philpot was married on February 22, 1875, to Winnie A. Moon, to whom four children were born, one of whom died in infancy. The second son, Gurney, was accidentally drowned in Maloney lake near Humboldt, on Decoration Day, 1892. Ralph R., the subject of this sketch, has a brother, Harry, who now lives at Circle City, Montana. The mother of these children is living in Lincoln, Nebraska. Samuel M. Philpot was a Presbyterian, as were his parents before him. He joined the church at Humboldt, February 18, 1875, and was made an elder in the same, January 26, 1890, which position he filled most efficiently until his death. Broadminded on the questions of municipal report, he was called upon to serve the city of his residence both as its mayor and as a member of the council at different times, and he was almost a life member of the school board and of the library board, in the affairs of which he always took a deep interest. He was also a member of the Masonic lodge, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Degree of Honor and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Ralph R. Philpot was educated in the Humboldt schools, later attending a business college in Lincoln, Nebraska. When but a boy he began working with his father in the lumber business, becoming a partner with him in 1910, and upon the death of the elder Philpot the son, with his brother Harry and their mother, took full charge of the business which has since been continued with ever-growing success, under the active management of the brothers, Ralph R. looking more specifically after the management of the lumber yard at Humboldt. They also own a yard at Burchard, this state. Their yard at Humboldt is the largest in southeastern Nebraska. A stock of lumber and coal is carried there aggregating in value nearly twenty thousand dollars on an average, and a large territory is supplied from this yard. Ralph R. Philpot is also a shareholder and vice-president of the Home State Bank.

On December 7, 1909, Ralph R. Philpot, of this review, was married to Edith Finch, who was born in Arapahoe, Nebraska, a daughter of R. J. Finch, a banker and merchant and one of the leading men of affairs of that place. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Philpot, namely: Robert F., Adelaide, and Samuel G.

Mr. Philpot is a Republican and is now serving as a member of the local school board and city council. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Presbyterian church. He is a man of sound judgment and business acumen, public spirited and of unquestioned integrity.



## WILLIAM M. BRANDOW.

William M. Brandow, one of the real "old settlers" of Humboldt precinct, the proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in the neighborhood of Humboldt, is a native of the Dominion of Canada, but has been a resident of Richardson county since he was twenty years of age, having come here in the spring of 1869, and has consequently been a witness to and a participant in the development of this county since pioneer days. He was born on October 16, 1849, son of Moses and Phoebe Brandow, who became pioneers of this county and here spent their last days, the former dying in 1891 and the latter in 1892.

Moses Brandow was born in Canada, in 1814, and was one of three sons born to his parents, who left the Catskill region of New York state and moved over into the Dominion. There Moses Brandow grew up and married, later moving to Illinois and thence, in 1865, to Iowa, where he remained until after his children had grown up and had come out here and established a home, when he and his wife rejoined them and here spent the remainder of their lives. Moses Brandon was a carpenter and did much carpenter work in the western part of the county. He and his wife were the parents of four children, the subject of this sketch having had three sisters, Harriet, who married John Lynch and came to this county from Iowa in 1868 and died here in 1892; Mrs. Angeline Elliot, a widow, now living in Denver, and Mrs. Emma Ray, now living in California. John Lynch, referred to above, was the son of Thomas H. Lynch, the pioneer postmaster at Lynchburg, on the old Revelle place in this county.

William M. Brandow was but an infant when his parents moved from Canada to Illinois in 1850 and he was about fifteen years of age when the family moved from that state to Iowa. He grew up in the latter state, living there until the spring of 1869, when he and his two sisters, Mrs. Elliot and Emma, and the former's husband, Frank Elliot, drove over into Nebraska, arriving in this county at ten o'clock in the morning on May 1, eight days from Prairie City, Iowa, with a load of two thousand pounds of household and other goods on their wagon. On September 1 following, Mr. Brandow made his location on his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Humboldt precinct and was shortly afterward joined there by his parents, who made their home with him thereafter, and he did not marry until some time after the death of his parents. Mr. Brandow built his first substantial house in 1872 and rebuilt the same in

1901. He has improved his farm in excellent shape and has long been looked upon as one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. He is a Republican in his political views and has held township offices, doing well his part in the public service.

On December 25, 1894, William M. Brandow was united in marriage to Nellie Madden, who was born in this county on October 8, 1872, daughter of David Madden and wife, pioneers of Richardson county. Mr. and Mrs. Brandow are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take a proper interest in church work and in other local good works. Mr. Brandow is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Humboldt and a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### FRED HAEFFELE.

Fred Haeffele, proprietor of nearly two hundred acres of fine land in the precinct of Arago, one hundred and twenty acres in section 28 and seventy-nine acres in the adjoining section, 22, and one of the best-known breeders of live stock in Richardson county, is a native of the Badger state, but has been a resident of this county since he was twenty years of age, having come here with his parents in 1883. He was born on a farm in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, October 19, 1862, son of Fred and Susanna (Schmidt) Haeffele, who came to this country in the spring of 1855 from Germany and after some years of residence in Wisconsin came to Nebraska and settled in Richardson county, becoming substantial pioneers of Arago precinct.

The elder Fred Haeffele was born in southern Germany on February 5, 1827, and there grew to manhood. In the spring of 1855, he came to this country, leaving his native land in March of that year and bringing with him his sweetheart and her parents and the other members of her family, seven in all, paying the passage of the family, and in May of that same year the party arrived in Wisconsin, their objective point upon taking passage for this country, and on July 4 following he and his sweetheart were married in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin. She also was born in southern Germany, March 8, 1834. After his marriage Fred Haeffele established his home on a farm in Fond du Lac county and there continued to make his home until in the spring of 1883, when he disposed of his interests there and came to Nebraska, arriving in this county about the middle of March. Upon his



arrival here he bought a farm in the precinct of Arago, established his home there and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on July 2, 1900, that date lacking but two days of being the forty-fifth anniversary of his marriage. The elder Fred Haeffele and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Susan, who married Charles Hartman and is now deceased; Mrs. Minnie Zimmerman, of Falls City; Henry, of Falls City; Mrs. Katherine Hartman, of the precinct of Arago; Mrs. Louisa Scheitel, of the precinct of Jefferson; Charles, of Falls City, and Albert, of Jefferson precinct.

The junior Fred Haeffele was twenty years of age when he came to this county with his parents in the spring of 1883 and his labors proved a valuable factor in the work of developing the home farm during the first two years of his residence here. After his marriage in the fall of 1885 his father gave him a team, a wagon, harness and certain essential implements of farming and in the following spring he rented a farm three miles north of Falls City and began farming on his own account, his undertaking proving so successful that in 1891 he was able to buy a farm of eighty acres, two miles east of the county seat. There he farmed for four years, at the end of which time, on account of the failing health of his wife, he sold his place and moved to Falls City. In 1896 he bought his present farm in sections 28 and 22 of Arago precinct and began to make extensive improvements on the same, among these improvements being the removal of the house and barn from the center of the farm to the east-and-west road, and has for years been very comfortably situated there. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Haeffele has been an extensive breeder of live stock, his specialties being Durham cattle and Percheron horses, and he has done very well in his operations, having been thus engaged since 1904.

Mr. Haeffele has been twice married. On October 22, 1885, he was united in marriage to Emma Wulf, who was born in Iowa on April 19, 1867, a daughter of Henry and Dora (Hahn) Wulf, natives of Germany, who later became pioneers of Richardson county, where the former spent his last days and where the latter is still living, now a resident of Falls City. Mrs. Emma Haeffele died in May, 1897, without issue, and on May 27, 1900, Mr. Haeffele married Hattie Bertram, who was born in the precinct of Arago, this county, October 29, 1881, daughter of Adolph and Mary (Graff) Bertram, the former a native of Germany and the latter of the state of Indiana, who came to Nebraska in territorial days and settled in Arago

precinct, this county, where they lived until their retirement from the farm and removal to Falls City, where they are still living, well-known pioneers of Richardson county. To this second union seven children have been born, Esther, Ernest, George, Walter, Dorothy, August and Lloyd, all of whom are living save the last named. Mr. and Mrs. Haeffele are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and take a proper part in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of their home community. Mr. Haeffele is "independent" in his political views.

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### HOMER D. KIRK.

Homer D. Kirk, treasurer of the village of Rulo, justice of the peace in and for the precinct of Rulo and actively engaged in the insurance and farm-loan business in his home village, was born there and has lived there all his life. He was born on September 26, 1886, son of George D. and Martha (Hurn) Kirk, the former a Kentuckian and the latter a native of the neighboring state of Kansas and who is still living at Rulo.

George D. Kirk was born at Murphysville, in Mason county, Kentucky, in 1847, son of Washington Kirk, also a native of that state. When twenty-one years of age, in 1868, George D. Kirk came to Nebraska and located at Rulo, where he spent the remainder of his life. For some years he served as assistant postmaster of that village and was also for years justice of the peace in and for his home precinct. He engaged in the insurance business and built up a profitable connection in that line, remaining thus engaged until his death on September 4, 1906, the business since then being carried on by his son, the subject of this sketch. In 1877 George D. Kirk was united in marriage to Martha Hurn, of Rulo, who was born at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, October 11, 1860, daughter of Gentry and Susan Hurn, who settled in Rulo in 1868, arriving there by steamer. Gentry Hurn was born in Missouri and his wife was born in Virginia. He was one of the original "forty-niners," having gone to California over the old Santa Fe Trail in the early days of the gold discovery on the coast, and was later employed by the government at Ft. Leavenworth. Upon coming to this county in 1868 he engaged in farming in the vicinity of Rulo and there spent his last days, his death occurring in 1907, he then being seventy-seven years of age. Mrs. Kirk is still living at Rulo. She and her husband were the parents of nine children, of whom six are still living, namely: Mrs. Mamie Brown,





HOMER D. KIRK.





of Falls City; Mrs. Jennie Robertson, also of Falls City; Homer D., the subject of this biographical sketch; Mrs. Pauline McFrye, of Rockford, this state, and Max and Forrest, of Rulo.

Homer D. Kirk was reared at Rulo and completed the course in the Rulo high school in 1902. Upon leaving school he engaged in the insurance business with his father and upon the latter's death in the fall of 1906 he succeeded to that business and has since been quite successful conducting the same, most of the leading companies for which he is writing insurance being the Royal of Liverpool, the Hartford Fire, of Hartford, Connecticut, and the National Security Fire, of Omaha. Since taking over the business Mr. Kirk has added farm loans to the same and in this latter line also has done quite well. He is a Republican and is serving now as treasurer of the village. In November, 1916, he was elected justice of the peace and is still serving in that magisterial capacity.

On October 2, 1916, Homer D. Kirk was united in marriage to Ruth Gormley, who was born at White Cloud, Kansas, and whose mother, Mrs. Mary E. Gormley-Miller, is now conducting a boarding house at White Cloud, Kansas. To that union one child has been born, a son, George Homer, born on June 27, 1917. Mr. and Mrs. Kirk attend the Methodist church and take a proper interest in neighborhood good works, as well as in the general social activities of their home town. Mr. Kirk is a member of Aerie No. 49, Fraternal Order of Eagles, at St. Joseph, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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### JACOB BLOOM.

A stranger viewing for the first time "Evergreen Heights Farm", in Falls City precinct, this county, would at once conclude that its owner, Jacob Bloom, was a man of industry and good taste, for everything about the place is well kept.

Mr. Bloom was born on January 30, 1863, in Mahoning county, Ohio, a son of Jacob and Clementine (Swartz) Bloom. The father was born in Germany in the year 1812, and when about a year old his parents brought him to America, the family locating in Ohio among the pioneers and there he grew up, married and established his home in Mahoning county, where he was a cooper by trade. His death occurred in 1877. His

second wife, Clementine Swartz, was born in 1839, near Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and her death occurred in 1902. His first wife, whom he married in early life, had no children. He was a member of the German Lutheran church. Eight children were born to the parents of the subject of this sketch, namely: Franklin M., who lives in Youngstown, Ohio; Katherine, the wife of Joseph McDermott, of Ellsworth Station, Ohio; Jacob, the subject of this sketch; Joshua, a farmer near Verdon, this county; Solomon, a carpenter at Verdon; Mrs. Cora Cook, who lives in Alliance, Ohio; George, who lives at North Lima, Ohio, and Victor, who lives at Elsworth Station, Ohio.

Jacob Bloom was but a lad when his father died and he started out to make his own living when but fifteen years old. His father was a poor man and left a large family for the widow to rear. Jacob earned his own board and clothes from the time he was seven years old and had little chance to obtain an education. He continued to work out as a farm hand until he was twenty-one years old, when he came West, in 1884, and rented land in this county for ten years. In 1895 he bought a farm five and one-half miles northwest of Falls City. He made many improvements on the place, including the building of a good barn, and there he engaged in general farming for ten years, at the end of which time he sold out and bought eighty acres near Verdon, on which he built a house and made many other improvements. Selling out in 1907, he moved to Falls City and worked for an implement store a year and a half, then bought a hardware store which he operated for a year, trading it for his present farm, which contains one hundred and twenty acres, in section 9, and here he has made a success as a general farmer and stock raiser. Mr. Bloom makes a specialty of breeding Shorthorn cattle, which find a very ready sale, owing to their superior quality. The leader of his fine herd is "Gardenia's Villager No. 485957". He started his herd in 1912 and it is now well advertised. At stated intervals he holds public sales on his place and the same are always largely attended. His farm was quite extensively improved by its former owner, W. R. Holt. The home is modern, being equipped with a furnace, hot and cold water and electric lights.

On December 18, 1890, Mr. Bloom was married to Cora Weaver, who was a daughter of Jesse and Emma Rebecca (Kroah) Weaver, both natives of Pennsylvania, from which state they removed to Illinois when young and there they were married. In 1873 they came to Nebraska and bought a farm fifteen miles northwest of Falls City. Both Mr. and Mrs. Weaver are now deceased. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bloom, a daughter, Minnie, who married Ralph Burgner and has one child, Mary C.

Jacob Bloom is a Democrat, but is inclined to vote independently. Fra-



ternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He and Mrs. Bloom are members of the Brethren church.

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### LEWIS F. MARBURGER.

By industry and fair dealing Lewis F. Marburger has built up a good business as a merchant in Humboldt. He was born, July 23, 1873, at Dubuque, Iowa, and is a son of George F. Marburger, born in 1851 at Canal Dover, Ohio, and whose death occurred in 1904. The father of George Marburger was a native of Germany, from which country he came to America in the early sixties and served in the Civil War as a Union soldier. After the war he located in Iowa. He bought leather from U. S. Grant at Galena, Illinois, before the war, the future General and President having been engaged in the tanning business there for some time. Five generations of the Marburger family have been engaged in the leather and shoe business. George F. Marburger, father of the subject of this sketch, learned the shoemaker's trade at Bellevue, Iowa. He came to Nebraska in 1878 and located a shoe shop at Humboldt, his son Lewis being then only five years old. George F. Marburger was married, while living in Iowa, to Sarah Chase Scoville, who was born in the state of New York in 1855. Her father served in the Civil War. Three children were born to George F. Marburger and wife, namely: George, deceased; Frank, deceased, and Lewis F., the subject of this sketch.

Lewis F. Marburger was educated in the public schools and was graduated from the Humboldt high school in 1891. He learned the shoemaker's trade under his father, whom he succeeded in business, conducting a well-equipped repair shop, and he is now proprietor of the oldest established business in Humboldt. He built a new store in the fall of 1913 and in it installed modern fixtures. He still does a large shoe-repairing business, but his main business is his store, in which he carries a large stock of shoes, rubber goods and hosiery. The business was originally established in 1879. Shoes and boots were made from the raw material for many years in this shop. In 1889 a stock of footwear was added to the business, father and son working together until the former's death in 1904, since which time the subject of this sketch has conducted the establishment alone. He has increased the business in various ways and his fine new brick building, which

now stands on the old site, would be a credit to any town in this section of the state, being one of the most substantial and attractive buildings in Humboldt.

In 1887, Mr. Marburger was married to Bertha Dorland, whose death occurred in 1911, leaving three children, namely: Willard, now (1917) seventeen years of age, who is attending high school; Lee, fifteen years of age, and Harold, nine. In August, 1914, Mr. Marburger married Nellie Snoke, a daughter of C. M. Snoke, of Humboldt, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Charles, whose birth occurred on March 3, 1916.

Mr. Marburger is a Republican, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and a member of the Presbyterian church. During his long business career in Humboldt he has done much in the way of promoting the general upbuilding of the town.

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### GEORGE BOWKER.

The late George Bowker, who at the time of his death in 1904 was the president of the Bank of Rulo, at Rulo, this county, and for many years had been one of the leading factors in the development of that part of the county, was a native of England, but had been a resident of this county since pioneer days, having come here in the fall of 1857. He was born at Buckworth Lodge, Huntingdonshire, England, May 13, 1835, son of Thomas and Rebecca (Burnham) Bowker, and was reared in his native country, after completing his schooling becoming employed in a grocery store, and remained there until he was twenty-two years of age, when, in 1857, he came to this country and after a short stay in Bradford county, New York, and at Elmira, that state, came out to the then Territory of Nebraska and in the fall of that year bought a tract of land in the vicinity of the landing where the village of Rulo later arose and before long became recognized as one of the leading landowners and cattlemen in that section. During the Civil War Mr. Bowker served in 1863-64 as commissary clerk in the quartermaster's department of the United States army at Ft. Kearney. When the First National Bank of Rulo was organized he was one of the active factors in that organization and when that institution was re-organized as the Bank of Rulo in 1890 he was made vice-president of the same and was later raised to the position of president of the bank, a position he held until his death. In a biographical sketch relating to his nephew, Thomas



G. Bowker, now vice-president of the bank, there is set out a history of this bank, further mention of which also is made in the historical section of this work. George Bowker was for some years during the early part of his residence here interested with Stephen B. Miles in government mail contracts, his operations including lines in Missouri and Texas. In 1896 he was united in marriage to Addie Woodford, of Rulo, who survives him. Mr. Bowker was a member of Orient Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Rulo, and after his death on December 31, 1904, his body was accorded full Masonic honors.

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### THE SHILDNECK FAMILY.

The Shildneck family has long been well established in Richardson county, throughout which they are well and favorably known, and they are among the leading citizens of Salem and vicinity.

Hiram S. Shildneck, now living in retirement at Salem, was born in Frederick county, Maryland, June 23, 1841. He is a son of William and Massa (Guidan) Shildneck, whose family consisted of nine children, six sons and three daughters, only two of whom are now living—Hiram S., who was seventh in order of birth, and Mrs. Mary E. Moser, a widow, who lives in Washington county, Maryland. William Shildneck was a tanner by trade, and lived all his life in Maryland, dying there at the age of eighty-three years. His wife was also a native of that state, where she lived and died.

Hiram S. Shildneck grew to manhood in Maryland and there attended the public schools, remaining at home until 1862, when he moved to Illinois and settled in Ogle county. At Polo, that state, he enlisted, in January, 1865, in Company F, Eighteenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, but the war being nearly over he did not see much active service. He was mustered out and honorably discharged at Ft. Steele, Little Rock, Arkansas, where he was stationed several months. After the war he returned to Illinois and bought a farm, which he improved and operated until 1886, in which year he came to Nebraska, buying a farm in Liberty precinct, Richardson county, which was well improved, and there he farmed until 1903, when he sold out. His place consisted of two hundred and forty acres of valuable and productive land, and the price he received was one hundred dollars an acre. In connection with general farming he was a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. He was one of the successful

farmers and stockmen of the county. Having accumulated a competency and old age coming on he retired from active life in 1903, moved to Salem, where he built a commodious residence and has there continued to reside to the present time.

On February 16, 1866, Hiram S. Shildneck was married to Mary F. Hammond, who was born in Virginia, in 1844, a daughter of Philip and Lydia (Kretzsinger) Hammond, both natives of Virginia, where they grew up and married, later moving to Illinois. They had only the one child, Mary F., who married Mr. Shildneck. Four children were born to Hiram and Mary F. Shildneck, namely: Flora, who is the wife of Charles Frederick, of Almena, Kansas; William P., who is engaged in the hardware business at Salem; Mrs. Bertha E. Schrader, who lives in Richardson county and who is mentioned in a separate sketch in this work, and Charles, who is engaged in the hardware business in Salem. Hiram S. Shildneck is a Prohibitionist, a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and a member of the Congregational church.

William and Charles Shildneck, mentioned above, started in the hardware business in Salem in 1903 and they have built up a large and growing business. They carry a complete line of hardware, implements and furniture. Their first store was destroyed by fire in 1910, and they then erected their present substantial and modern brick building, forty-five by ninety feet.

William Shildneck was born on September 29, 1869, in Ogle county, Illinois, and there he spent his boyhood and attended the public schools, later attending the high school at Holton, Kansas. He grew up on the home farm, where he worked during the crop seasons. When a young man he worked for the Burlington Railroad Company as agent at Salem and in various places in the West for about twelve years. For the past fourteen years he has devoted his attention to the hardware business.

On August 5, 1895, William Shildneck was married to Nellie M. Long, a daughter of William P. and Hettie J. (Eshelman) Long, natives of Pennsylvania, where they grew up and were married. In the fifties they removed to Illinois, becoming early settlers in Ogle county, where they remained until 1872, when they came to Nebraska and located on a farm in Richardson county. Mr. Long died here in 1912 at the age of sixty-nine years. His widow is now living in Brown county, Kansas, at the age of seventy years. Four children have been born to William Shildneck and wife, namely: Carl H., Lloyd P., Jesse W., and Paul R.

Charles Shildneck was born in Ogle county, Illinois, September 19, 1880, and was reared on the home farm, where he worked when a boy,



and he received a common-school education. He engaged in farming until he entered the hardware business with his brother in Salem, in 1903. In 1907 he married Josie Hinton, a daughter of John Hinton and wife, early settlers of Richardson county. To this union two children have been born, Cleo and John.

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### FRANK E. CHURCH.

One of the farmers of Franklin precinct, Richardson county who follows twentieth century methods is Frank E. Church, who owns a well-improved and productive farm of two hundred and seventy acres on which he carries on general farming and raises large numbers of cattle and hogs, forging to the front rank in his locality during his residence there of twenty-five years on the same farm.

Mr. Church was born on February 26, 1870, in Wisconsin, a son of Joseph and Sarah (Rood) Church. The father was born in 1844 and died on March 25, 1911. The mother, who was of English descent, was born in Canada in 1851 and died on February 4, 1904. In 1880 Joseph Church and family emigrated to Nebraska and settled on a farm east of Dubois, Pawnee county, and in the spring of 1889 settled in Franklin precinct, Richardson county, on land a part of which is now owned by Frank E. Church. The family of Joseph Church numbered six, only two of the children now surviving, Frank E., and Mrs. Mary Standerford, who also lives in Franklin precinct, Richardson county.

Frank E. Church grew up on his father's farm, where he worked when a boy during the summer months, in the winter time attending the district schools, and when but a boy turned his attention to farming. He rented the farm he now owns for a while, then purchased it in 1894. He has added many improvements, including the erection of a large modern residence, also good barns and other buildings. He has managed well and has succeeded.

On November 10, 1892, Mr. Church was married to Mary Vanier, who was born in Richardson county, October 5, 1871, and was reared in her native locality and attended the public schools. She is a daughter of John and Martha (Alott) Vanier. The father was born June 17, 1833, in Pennsylvania, from which state he removed to Ohio with his parents when young and there he grew to manhood and married. In November, 1858, he removed to Nebraska, locating in the southwestern corner of Richard-

son county, being one of the pioneers there. He developed a good farm from the wild prairie and continued to reside there for a period of forty-two years or until 1900, when he moved to Dubois, Pawnee county, where he lived for nine years. He now lives with his daughter, Mrs. Church, being now (1917) eighty-four years of age. His wife, Martha Alott, was born in 1834 and died on November 9, 1905. To John Vanier and wife the following children were born: George, who lives in Dubois, Nebraska; Oscar, who lives in Fairbury, this state; Mrs. Susan Brinker, who lives in Colorado Springs; Mary, wife of Mr. Church, and Jacob, who lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

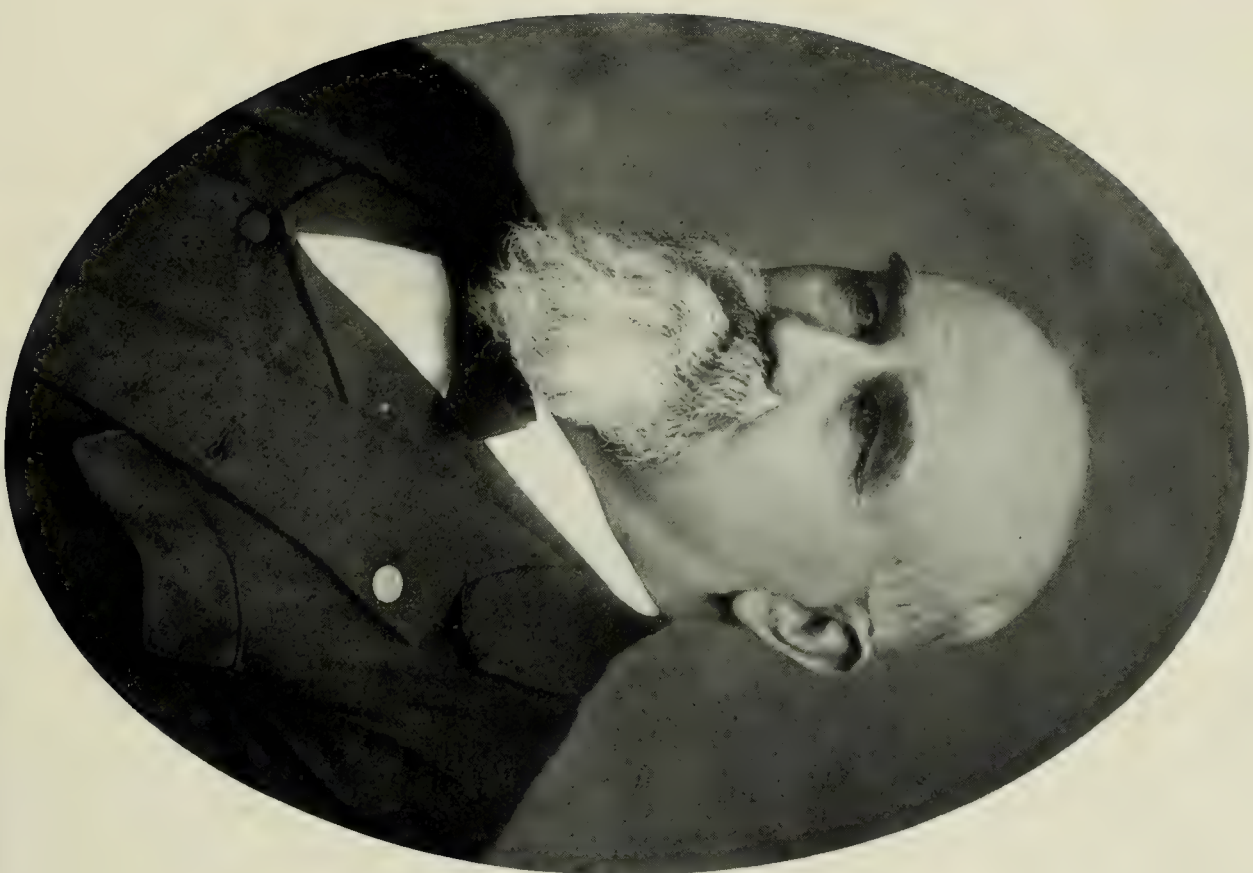
Four children have been born to Frank E. Church and wife, namely: John, who lives on the farm east of his father's, married Leona Rue, and has one child, Virgil Leonard; Earl, who is teaching school near Lincoln, in Seward county, and who was married, June 11, 1917, to Anna Heacock; Vernon, who lives at home, and George, who is attending school at Franklin Center. Mr. Church votes independently, preferring to cast his ballot for the best man rather than for the party.

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### CHARLES SMITH.

The late Hon. Charles Smith, former representative from this district to the Nebraska General Assembly, an honored veteran of the Civil War, and during his life one of the best-known and most substantial farmers in Richardson county, the proprietor of a fine farm in the precinct of Nemaha and for years actively identified with the interests of this section of the state, was of European birth, but had been a resident of this country since he was fifteen years of age and of this county since he was eighteen. Born in Germany on March 19, 1840, he remained there until 1855, in which year he came to this country with a married sister and settled in Missouri, coming thence in 1858 to Nebraska and settling on a farm on Honey creek, in the precinct of Nemaha, this county, he and his brother, Julius Smith, farming the place in partnership for some years, at the end of which time he bought his brother's interest in the farm and thereafter developed it alone. During the progress of the Civil War Mr. Smith enlisted for service in Company G, Fifth Missouri Cavalry, and with that command rendered valiant service in behalf of the preservation of the Union, he having from the day of his arrival in this country given himself wholeheartedly to his adopted country.





MR. AND MRS. CHARLES SMITH.







After his marriage in the spring of 1869 Charles Smith established his home on his farm in Nemaha precinct and it was not long until he came to be regarded as one of the leading farmers in that part of the county. As he prospered he added to his land holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of five hundred acres, which he had improved and developed in admirable shape, and there he spent his last days, his death occurring on January 15, 1916, and his widow is still living there, retaining her interest in three hundred and ninety acres of the estate. Mr. Smith was an ardent Republican and ever gave his earnest attention to local civic affairs, one of the recognized leaders of his party in this county. In 1898 he was elected to represent Richardson county in the Legislature and during the session of 1899 rendered admirable service in behalf of his constituents and of the state at large in the House. He was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church, was one of the active workers in the ranks of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Sabetha, Kansas, and was affiliated with the lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at that place, in the affairs of all of these organizations taking a warm interest.

On March 11, 1869, Charles Smith was united in marriage to Lucinda Lockwood, who was born in Allegany county, New York, January 16, 1850, daughter of Joseph and Theda (Martindale) Lockwood, natives of that same state and members of old Colonial families, the latter of whom was a granddaughter of Sheldon Holbrook, a soldier of the Revolution and a large landowner in New York. The Lockwoods left New York in 1853 and moved to Michigan, settling at Chasaning, in Saginaw county, where they lived for eleven years, or until 1864, when they moved to Minnesota and settled on a farm in the neighborhood of Alma City, where they remained two years, at the end of which time, in 1866, they came down into Nebraska and settled on a farm in the precinct of Nemaha, in this county, becoming substantial pioneers of that community. Later, Joseph Lockwood and his wife moved to Mitchell, Kansas, where their last days were spent.

To Charles and Lucinda (Lockwood) Smith were born nine children, of whom five are still living, as follow: Nellie, wife of George F. Funk, a farmer, living three miles southwest of Dawson, this county; Olive, wife of Oliver C. Ayers, of Nemaha precinct, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Helen, wife of Benjamin Stalder, of Salem precinct; Ardie, wife of C. Foy French, of the city of Lincoln, and Fred, living on the old home place, which he is successfully farming, who married Carrie Brougher and has four children, Gertrude, wife of Lloyd Keim; Charles, Zuella and Villas. All of the Smith children received excel-

lent schooling and in their younger days all were for a time engaged in teaching school in this county, the family ever having taken an active and useful part in the general social and cultural activities of the community. Mrs. Smith is a member of the United Brethren church and has for years been among the leaders in all good works in the community in which she has lived since pioneer days and the development of which she has witnessed and aided since the days of her girlhood.

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### LEONARD R. MANN.

Leonard R. Mann, farmer and live-stock buyer, living in Humboldt, is one of the native sons of Richardson county who has appreciated home opportunities and has been content to stay here. He was born in Humboldt, November 12, 1877, a son of Lewis C. and Mary (Cox) Mann, the former of whom was born in Randolph county, Indiana, June 6, 1848. Lewis C. Mann devoted his life to the live-stock and butcher business. He spent his early life in the East, coming to Nebraska in 1870 and locating at Humboldt, where he bought and shipped cattle and hogs to the markets, spending the balance of his life there, dying on May 17, 1910. He was one of the best-known stockmen in the northwestern portion of the county, and took an active interest in local public affairs, serving as a member of the city council at Humboldt at different times, and did all he could toward the general upbuilding of his community. He became owner of considerable property in Humboldt. He was a member of the Christian church there and leader in the same for many years. He belonged to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His wife also was born in Randolph county, Indiana, in 1851, and is now living at Humboldt, Nebraska. To these parents nine children were born, five of whom are living at this writing.

Leonard R. Mann was reared at Humboldt, where he attended the public schools. He worked in the butcher business with his father until 1902, when he began buying live stock on his own account; in fact, he has been buying stock since he was thirteen years old. Through long years of practice and also a pronounced natural ability in that line, he has become one of the best judges of live stock in the county. In 1910 he bought, in partnership with Walter Legg, a farm of one hundred acres, which partnership existed until 1913, when Mr. Mann bought eighty acres of the place in Franklin precinct, since which time he has devoted his attention to general



farming there, although maintaining his residence in the town of Humboldt. He has also continued buying stock for the market.

Mr. Mann was married on November 17, 1909, to Frances M. Little, a daughter of Oliver T. and Elizabeth (Pollock) Little, natives of Connersville, Indiana, and of Red Oak, Iowa, respectively. They were early settlers in Pawnee county, Nebraska, where they engaged successfully in agricultural pursuits until retiring from active life. They now live in Humboldt. Mrs. Mann was born at Pawnee City, Nebraska, and there she grew to maturity and received a good education in the public schools, graduating from the high school, and later was a student in the State University of Nebraska. After coming to Humboldt she became associate editor of the *Standard*, the duties of which position she discharged with ability and credit for a period of three years. She was with that newspaper six years in all. She is a woman of high educational attainments and a writer of much natural ability. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Mann has been blessed by the birth of one child, Frances Marjorie, born on October 26, 1913.

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#### NEWTON C. CAMPBELL.

The enterprising merchant, Newton C. Campbell, of Humboldt, has succeeded because he has had courage and perseverance and has been willing to follow the Golden Rule in dealing with his fellow men. He was born on October 15, 1855, in Lasalle county, Illinois, a son of Abel and Eliza (Woodward) Campbell, who were parents of fourteen children, five sons and two daughters of whom are still living, Newton C. having been the tenth in order of birth. Abel Campbell was born on November 28, 1809, in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, where he spent his earlier years. He moved to Illinois about 1852, presently locating at Streator, that state, and in 1872 took up his residence at Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he made his home with one of his sons for five or six years, at the end of which time he went to Templeton, Iowa, where his death occurred in 1894. He spent his active life as a farmer. He was reared a Quaker, but gave up that faith when he married. He was a man of deep religious convictions and an active church worker. The mother of the subject of this sketch also was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, in 1813, and died in 1897. She worked hard assisting her husband rear their large family, often sewing until far into the night, making clothes for them.

Newton C. Campbell was reared on the farm and received his education in the district schools and at Streator, Illinois. After leaving school he clerked in a clothing store there for two years. He came to Nebraska in 1876 and worked as a farm hand in the vicinity of Table Rock for four years, receiving sixteen dollars a month, later two hundred dollars a year. He began farming for himself in 1880, and in 1891 bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Franklin precinct, Richardson county. Selling out there in 1894, he moved to Humboldt precinct and bought eighty acres, which he operated until 1900, in which year he sold out and moved to the town of Humboldt, where he bought a partnership in the Watts grocery and queensware store. Four years later he bought his partner out and has since been conducting the business alone. He has been very successful and has built up a large and growing trade. He carries an extensive and carefully selected stock of staple and fancy groceries and a fine line of queensware, about a six-thousand-dollar stock. His store is modern in its appointments, neat and well arranged.

On February 26, 1880, Mr. Campbell was married to Parmelia Fellers, who was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Philip and Katherine Cordelia (Puever) Fellers, both natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Nebraska in 1878 and located on a farm two and one-half miles from Table Rock. There the death of the father occurred in 1879, at the age of fifty-five years, and his widow is now making her home with the subject of this sketch. She has reached the advanced age of eighty-seven years. Mrs. Campbell is a member of the Methodist church and an active worker in the same. She is a member of the local lodge of the Daughters of Rebekah and of the Degree of Honor. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Campbell has been without issue.

Mr. Campbell is a Republican. He was elected a member of the Humboldt city council in 1904, serving for two years, and in 1909 he was again elected to the council, serving until 1911, when he was elected county supervisor, the duties of which office he discharged in an able and faithful manner until 1917, when the office was discontinued. In 1911 he was appointed chairman of the county board, which position he held for six years. In all these offices of trust he has been painstaking and worked for the general good of the public, making a record that was satisfactory to all concerned. Fraternally, he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a member of the Methodist church, of which he is a trustee, and is an active worker in the same.



## CHRIST WUSTER.

Another foreign-born citizen of western Richardson county who has been successful in our land of many opportunities and has been enabled to retire from active life is Christ Wuster, of Dawson, Grant township, this county. He was born in Germany, May 13, 1848, a son of Christ and Rosanna (Likes) Wuster, natives of Germany. The father was born on December 14, 1821, and died on February 1, 1885. The mother was born on February 19, 1823, and died in January, 1888. They were parents of nine children, eight of whom are living.

The Wuster family remained in their native land until 1851, when they immigrated to America, locating in Pennsylvania, in which state the parents spent the rest of their lives, and there their son Christ, Jr., grew to manhood, attending the common schools, and for several years worked on a farm in Lycoming county. After his marriage he came to Nebraska in 1890, and located on a farm four miles north of Dawson, in Porter precinct, paying ten dollars an acre for his land, which he improved and tilled with success until 1904, becoming one of the leading general farmers and stock raisers of Porter precinct. He then retired from active life and moved to the village of Dawson, where he bought a home and there he has since resided. While on the farm he made a specialty of breeding Shorthorn cattle.

On September 25, 1873, Mr. Wuster was married to Martha Marquardt, who was born on January 31, 1850, in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania. She is a daughter of Fred and Rosanna (Keiss) Marquardt, both natives of Germany, from which country they came to America with their respective parents and located in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, the father being only ten years old when they crossed the Atlantic. They grew to maturity in the old Keystone state and were married there. Mrs. Martha Wuster was reared and educated in her native state. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wuster: Anna, who is the wife of Walter Kirk and they live on the Wuster home farm in Porter precinct; Charles, who is also living on the home place; Clara, wife of Charles Perry, now living in California; Henry, who lives in California; Thomas Frederick, who lives on a farm one mile north and one-half mile east of Dawson; David E., deceased; John A., who lives in California, and Mrs. Mary Dillon, also of California.

Christ Wuster, Jr., deserves a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished since coming to Nebraska, for he then had but six hundred dollars. He went in debt for his farm of three hundred and twenty acres,

but worked hard and managed well and success eventually crowned his efforts. For several years he hauled his wheat to Salem Mills and exchanged it for flour. He lived in the old log cabin on his land for some time, or until he was able financially to build a better residence. There was considerable native timber on his land, and he got from his own woods most of the lumber with which to build his barn and other buildings. There was an apple orchard on his place, which for some time was the only one in Richardson county. This orchard brought him large returns, his apples being in great demand at fancy prices. Politically, he is a Democrat. He and Mrs. Wuster belong to the Evangelical church.

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### JOSEPH O. HORTON.

Joseph O. Horton, well-known farmer and live-stock breeder of Salem precinct, is one of the representative citizens of Richardson county. Like many of our enterprising men he hails from the Hoosier state, having been born at Bedford, Indiana, March 7, 1854, a son of John and Cynthia Ann (Peters) Horton. The father was also born in Bedford, Indiana, October 6, 1817, and died on March 11, 1885. He devoted his life to farming and in 1857 moved to Iowa county, Iowa, where he remained until 1873, when he went to Van Buren county, that state, and his death occurred near Birmingham, Iowa. He was married four times. Three children were born to his first union, one to his second and two to his third, the fourth union being without issue. The subject of this sketch was born to the second wife, Cynthia Ann Peters, who was born in Indiana and who died in 1854. The other children were as follow: George, a Union soldier during the Civil War, who was killed in the battle of Corinth, Mississippi, October 4, 1864, while serving as a member of the Seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry; John M., who lives in California; Henry, deceased, and Mrs. Sarah Gilbert, who was killed by being run over by an automobile in Kansas City, Missouri.

Joseph O. Horton was reared on the home farm and attended the district schools in Iowa. He left there when a young man and went to Illinois, where he worked on different farms; also worked as a farm hand in Iowa, receiving eighteen dollars and later twenty dollars a month, and worked two years on one farm. Saving his earnings, he bought a team and went to Mahaska county, Iowa, where he began farming for himself on rented land. He also lived a while in Guthrie county, Iowa. In 1883



he moved to Hutchins county, South Dakota, where he took up a homestead, on which he lived until 1887, when he sold out and moved to Mills county, Iowa, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres. In 1896 he came to Nebraska and bought his present farm in Richardson county, on which he has made extensive improvements. It contains three hundred and forty acres in section 5 of Salem precinct and section 32 of Liberty precinct. In connection with general farming he is a breeder of Percheron horses and pure-bred Poland China hogs. At this writing he has a fine standard-bred Percheron stallion and an excellent jack.

On September 24, 1884, Mr. Horton was married to Bessie Wallace, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of James Wallace and wife, natives of Ohio, where they grew up and were married. They resided in that state until about 1867, when they moved to Olathe, Kansas. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Horton, namely: James W. and Benjamin F., both of whom live in Salem township and are there engaged in farming; Robert A., John O. and Dean, all at home; Harriet, who is teaching school in Salem, and two daughters who died in infancy. Mrs. Horton has been twice married, her first husband having been George Woodward, by whom she had one child, a son, the Rev. George W. Woodward, who is a minister in the Presbyterian church at Broadwater, Nebraska. Mr. Horton is a Republican. He is a member of the local lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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#### FATHER FRANCIS A. O'BRIEN.

Father Francis A. O'Brien, the genial and earnest priest of St. Mary's church, Dawson, Grant precinct, is doing a good work in the western part of Richardson county. He was born on April 30, 1879, in Watertown, Massachusetts, a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Geraughty) O'Brien. Peter O'Brien was born in Ireland in 1852, and there also occurred the birth of his wife. They grew up in their native land, attended school and were married there, later immigrating to New England, when Peter O'Brien was twenty-five years old, locating in Watertown, Massachusetts, and there he has since maintained his home. His wife passed away in 1892, when about forty years old. To these parents seven children were born as follow: William, deceased; Mary, keeping house for the subject of this sketch; Joseph, engaged in mercantile pursuits near Boston, Massachusetts; Elizabeth, at home with her father in Watertown, that state; William, also at

home; Anna, the youngest, is still a member of the family circle, and Francis A., of this review.

Father O'Brien grew to manhood in Watertown, Massachusetts, where he attended St. Patrick's school up to the ninth grade; he then entered the Watertown high school, from which he was graduated with the class of 1898, later entering Boston College, from which institution he was graduated in philosophy and the classics with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in 1902. In September, 1902, he entered St. Meinrad Seminary, at St. Meinrad, Indiana, and was ordained to the priesthood there on June 17, 1905. Soon thereafter, in July of that year, he was assigned as assistant priest to the St. Theresa Pro-Cathedral, in the city of Lincoln, diocese of Lincoln. After remaining in this latter charge four years and nine months he was transferred to St. Vincent church at Seward, Nebraska, after which he took charge of the Mission at Utica, this state. On October 1, 1911, he took charge of the Dawson parish, where he has since remained. He has fifty families in the church at Dawson, and there is also a parochial school, good work being done in each.

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### JOSEPH STEELE.

EDWIN F. STEELE.

ROBERT EDWIN STEELE.

Joseph Steele was one of the pioneer settlers of Richardson county, who came to this locality in 1857 and invested in a tract of land in the vicinity of Falls City, which is still owned by his descendants. He was a man of fine character and was widely known for his sterling qualities and attainments. He was born at Hanover, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, on February 9, 1809, and was a son of Joseph Steele, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, whose father, Peter Steele, settled with his family in the Wyoming valley in 1778. Peter Steele was a younger son of the Steele family of Scotland, which was prominent in the early wars for Scotch liberation, loyal to their country and their religion, and suffering the persecution which the Covenanters received under Charles II.

The mother of Joseph Steele, pioneer of Nebraska, was Sarah Ransom, who was a daughter of George Palmer Ransom, son of Capt. Samuel Ransom, a member of Washington's staff, killed at the battle of Wyoming. George Palmer Ransom was a member of his father's company,







EDWIN F. AND MARY E. STEELE.





JOSEPH AND MARGARET STEELE.





and though but fourteen years of age, fought so bravely in this battle that he was recommended by General Washington for promotion as a reward "for bravery on the field of battle." He was afterward made colonel of a regiment under Washington.

Joseph Steele's early education was obtained in the country schools of the period, supplemented by instruction from private teachers. His early ambition was to become a lawyer and he studied for this profession under his brother, Judge Steele, at Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania. During the course of his law studies he joined a surveying party which had secured a contract to survey Susquehanna, Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, in which counties he afterward acquired large and valuable holdings. He bought and sold this land to such good advantage that he decided to continue in this business, making a practice of placing much of this land under cultivation before disposing of it. It was thus he began his successful farming career.

In 1852 Joseph Steele came West with the intention of investing in land, and visited a brother, then living in Missouri. Although he was a Democrat and loyal to the principles of that party, he was a pronounced "anti-slavery" advocate and could not reconcile himself to the idea of settling in a slave state such as Missouri was at that time. He decided to come farther West into Kansas and Nebraska and joined a party of Eastern men, who were making a tour of those territories. They traveled by horse over eastern Kansas and Nebraska, their guide taking them to the new settlements of Archer, Table Rock, and onward to the present site of Omaha. His next trip to Nebraska was made in 1855, after Richardson county was organized, with Archer as its county seat. While on this trip he located land in Richardson and Nemaha counties, bought land in Kansas and Missouri, and then returned East, where he married Margaret Fisher, at Beloit, Wisconsin. In 1857 he came again to Nebraska and bought eight hundred acres of land, the northeast quarter of section 14 and the northwest quarter of section 13, being part of this purchase. He decided definitely to take up farming as a permanent vocation and to cast his lot with the new territory of Nebraska; and, accordingly, sent his brother, Charles Steele, to this county to superintend the erection of a dwelling on the land in section 14 of Falls City precinct. The lumber for this home was transported by boat from St. Joseph to Rulo and from there hauled to Falls City. This house is still standing, in a good state of preservation, and is owned by his youngest son, Joseph C. Steele. To this home Joseph Steele brought

his family in April, 1865. At the end of six years Joseph Steele erected the residence on the northwest quarter of section 13, where he lived, and was engaged in farming and stock raising on a large scale until his death, November 27, 1887. This farm was inherited by his son, Edwin Ferris Steele, and is now owned by his grandson, Robert Edwin Steele.

Joseph Steele was a man of fine public spirit, but being of a very retiring disposition he would never permit his name to be put up for public office, preferring to lend his stanch support to the candidate he personally favored than to fill the office himself. He and his devoted wife worked hard for every good thing that would advance the interest of their home, city and community, and he contributed liberally to the building of all churches erected in Falls City during his life time, and was especially interested in the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Steele was a member. He experienced all of the hardships of pioneer life, including drouth periods and grasshopper scourges. He contributed generously to funds raised to defray the expense of the destruction of these insects and for the support of his less fortunate neighbors, who suffered because of drouth and loss of crops destroyed by grasshoppers. His heart and purse were ever open to the cry of the needy and his giving was as unostentatious as were all the good deeds of his life. He was a broadminded, generous-natured man. His donation of Steele Cemetery, a tract of thirty acres of land to be used as a public cemetery, stands as a splendid monument to his idea of public spirit and liberality. In all of the affairs of his life he maintained a very high sense of honor and integrity of purpose, and it was said of him that his word was as good as his bond.

Joseph Steele was married to Margaret Fisher at Beloit, Wisconsin, January 15, 1855. To this union were born the following children: Edwin Ferris Steele, Joseph Charles Steele, Hannah F. Samuelson, Sarah Steele, and Margaret Steele, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood on the home place. At this date there are seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild among his descendants.

Mrs. Joseph Steele was a daughter of Jacob Fisher, whose family were early settlers of New Jersey and among the first settlers to enter the Wyoming valley after the Revolutionary War. Her mother, Hannah Adams, was of New England birth and a member of the famous Adams family to which John Adams, President of the United States, belonged. Mrs. Steele was born on December 23, 1821, and departed this life on December 14, 1901. She was a woman of strong character, devoted to her family and her home and loyal to her church. She endured the hardships of pioneer



days with strength and fortitude, doing much kindly missionary work, and was well-known to the various tribes of Indians, who traveled the highway which led past the Steele home as, "White-Mother Good to Indian." Her heart was ever warm to those in need, whom she served with Christian love and tenderness.

Edwin Ferris Steele, eldest son of Joseph Steele, was born near Wilkesbarre, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, on September 5, 1857. He accompanied his parents to Richardson county in 1865, residing with them in the first home, in section 14, and in the second home, in section 13. He attended the schools in Falls City until he entered the University of Nebraska, in 1875. His earnest desire was to become a lawyer and he pursued his studies to that end, but through force of circumstances was compelled to abandon his idea of entering the legal profession and devote his attention to farming. He inherited the homestead from his father and embarked upon a successful farming and stock-raising career. He maintained a keen interest in the political affairs of his day, and enlarged his intellectual horizon by continued wide reading, which made him a well-educated man. Edwin Ferris Steele was married in May, 1888, to Mary E. Abbey, daughter of W. W. Abbey, a prominent farmer and business man of Richardson county. Their children are Robert Edwin and Mary Elizabeth Steele. Edwin F. Steele died at his home on October 17, 1903, honored and respected by all who knew him. Mrs. Mary E. Steele died on November 9, 1895. Following the death of his wife, E. F. Steele was married on April 14, 1896, to Katharine Diven, of Casey, Iowa, this union being without issue.

Robert Edwin Steele, third in line of the Steele family in Nebraska, was born on August 12, 1889, at the Steele homestead, where he now resides. He grew to manhood on the homestead, and after graduating from the Falls City high school he entered the University of Nebraska, in 1911, and there pursued the full agricultural course, graduating with honors in 1915. Immediately after the completion of his college course he engaged in cultivating the home farm and has followed faithfully in the footsteps of his forbears in this respect. The appearance of the Steele homestead is evidence of the thorough care which is bestowed upon it by the owner, who is engaged in general farming and stock raising, on a large scale, on the four hundred acres comprising this tract. Mr. Steele has turned his attention to the breeding and raising of thoroughbred stock, with unqualified success, and has become widely known as a breeder of Duroc-Jersey swine, holding semi-annual public sales of his fine stock at his farm. He also

handles large numbers of sheep, the output of which has topped the market at St. Joseph on several occasions.

Mr. Steele is a Republican in his political views, but is inclined to vote independently. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and is affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

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### HENRY STITZER.

Henry Stitzer, former member of the board of county commissioners for Richardson county and one of the best-known and most substantial farmers in the precinct of Salem, where he has a fine home, is a native of the old Keystone state, from which so many of the sterling pioneer citizens of Richardson county came, but has been a resident of this county since 1886, he and his wife having come here immediately after their marriage in that year. He was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, July 12, 1858, son of Augustus and Catherine (Bridechum) Stitzer, both of Dutch stock and members of old families in the Pennsylvania-Dutch settlement, who spent all their lives in their native state, substantial and well-to-do farming people in Berks county. Augustus Stitzer and his wife were the parents of fourteen children, of whom ten grew to maturity and of whom nine are still living, four having died in infancy, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Augustus, who still lives in Pennsylvania; Mrs. Catherine Nunemocher, also of Pennsylvania; John, who is engaged in the retail meat business at Falls City, this county; Mrs. Rachel Conrad, of Pennsylvania; Emmet, who died in 1916; James, of Pennsylvania; Mrs. Sarah Diehl, of Pennsylvania, and Charles and Mary, of that same state.

Reared on the home farm in Berks county, Pennsylvania, Henry Stitzer received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, when, in 1879, he went to Illinois and was for seven or eight years thereafter engaged in farming in Ogle county, that state. There he was married in the spring of 1885 and he and his wife straightway came to Nebraska, in 1886, and settled in Richardson county, the first winter of their residence here being spent on the Conklin place. They then spent a year on the Dowell place and were afterward located on the Miles ranch for eleven years, at the end of which time Mr. Stitzer sold his farming equipment and moved to Salem, where for four years he was engaged in the hardware business. He then bought a quarter



of a section of land in the precinct of Salem and moved onto the same, resuming the life of a farmer, and there made his home for a year, at the end of which time he bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in that same precinct and has ever since made his home there, with the exception of three years spent in the automobile business at Salem, returning to his home farm on February 1, 1914. In addition to his well-improved farm in Salem precinct Mr. Stitzer is the owner of a quarter of a section of land in Texas and a tract of five acres in California. He has an excellent farm plant and one of the pleasantest home places in his neighborhood, the house being surrounded by a fine grove and ornamented with numerous evergreens of old growth. Mr. Stitzer is a Democrat, though inclined to independence of party on local issues, and has served the county as a member of the board of county commissioners from his district for two terms, 1908-10 and 1912-14. He also served for ten years as school director in his district and has served as town clerk and in other local public capacities.

On March 5, 1886, in Ogle county, Illinois, Henry Stitzer was united in marriage to Martha Snyder, who was born in Pennsylvania, April 10, 1861, a daughter of Jacob and Rebecca (Kesselring) Snyder, natives of that same state, who moved to Illinois in 1864 and in April, 1893, moved from that state to Nebraska and settled on the farm now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Stitzer, in Salem precinct, this county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, Mr. Snyder dying there in October, 1903, he then being eighty-two years of age, and his widow surviving until in February, 1910, she being eighty-five years of age at the time of her death. In her younger days Mrs. Snyder had been accustomed to ride in ox-wagons, but in her latter years found a much better mode of transportation in the automobile of her son-in-law, Mr. Stitzer, enjoying greatly the swift and comfortable motion of the modern car as in contrast with the lumbering and comfortless ox-wagons of her earlier days. Jacob Snyder and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom: Mrs. Stitzer was the eighth in order of birth, the others being as follow: George, who is now living in Caldwell, Idaho; John, of Kansas City, Missouri; Mary, now deceased, who was the wife of E. R. Grush; Fannie, who died at the age of twenty years; Edward, now a resident of California; Mrs. Sarah Grush, of Falls City, this county; Charles, now a resident of Texas; James, of Edgar, this state, and G. Lee, of Texas. Both the Snyders and the Kesselrings are of Swiss stock, both of Mrs. Stitzer's grandfathers having been born in Switzerland.

To Henry and Martha (Snyder) Stitzer three children have been born, Maynard, assistant cashier of the bank at Salem, who married Ethel Thompson, daughter of Amos Thompson and wife, and has one child, a son, Glen; Clarence, a farmer of Salem precinct, who married Hazel McDowell, daughter of George McDowell and wife, and has one child, a daughter, Dorman Lee, and Vincent, born on October 7, 1899, who is at home. The Stitzers are members of the Congregational church at Salem and take a proper part in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live.

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#### HON. AUGUSTUS H. FELLERS.

One of the best-known business firms of the western part of Richardson county is the furniture and undertaking establishment in the town of Humboldt, of which the Hon. Augustus H. Fellers, former mayor of that city and former representative from this district to the state Legislature, is a member. Mr. Fellers was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, June 27, 1851, and is a son of Philip and Catherine (Plulver) Fellers, who were the parents of nine children, only two of whom are now living, Augustus A. Fellers having a sister, Mrs. Parmelia Campbell.

Philip Fellers was born at Upper Red Hood, Dutchess county, New York and was a son of Philip Fellers, also a native of the state of New York. In an early day the family moved to Pennsylvania, and in 1877 part of the family came to Nebraska, the parents of the subject of this review settling on a farm in Pawnee county. Before leaving Pennsylvania Philip Fellers had followed teaming, but he devoted the latter part of his life to general farming, becoming the owner of one hundred and sixty acres in Pawnee county. His death occurred in 1879, at the age of fifty-one years. His wife, Catherine Plulver, was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, December 25, 1829. She is still living, in her eighty-eighth year, making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Parmelia Campbell, at Humboldt.

Augustus H. Fellers was reared on a farm and when a boy worked hard during the crop seasons, attending the public schools during the winter months, in Pennsylvania. Remaining in his native state until 1877, he came with the rest of the family to Nebraska and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres two miles west of the town of Humboldt, in this county. The place was slightly improved and a log cabin had been erected on it.



Mr. Fellers began improving at once in a general way and the cabin gave way to a comfortable five-room, story and one-half frame dwelling; out-buildings and fences were also put up and he soon had the land under an excellent state of cultivation. He dealt in live stock to some extent and in those days bought hogs as low as two cents a pound. Mr. Fellers continued farming with success until 1882, when he sold out and moved to the town of Humboldt, where he bought out a furniture store and has since been in partnership with J. C. Segrist, their partnership continuing with mutual pleasure and success for a period of thirty-five years and is, therefore, not only well-established, but widely known in the southeastern part of the state. They have built up a large trade with the surrounding country and carry a stock of general furniture that would do credit to a town much larger than Humboldt. The fact that they have dealt with their scores of customers in a uniformly honest and courteous manner is indicated from the fact that many of their present customers have been trading with them for a quarter of a century or more.

Mr. Fellers is a skilled embalmer, having been graduated from the Lincoln Embalming School at Lincoln, and the firm has for years been doing an extensive undertaking business. Mr. Fellers is owner of forty acres of good land one mile north of Humboldt. Credit is due him for promoting the present excellent telephone system of Humboldt. It was he who called the first meeting for the purpose of organizing a telephone company and he remained a leader in the same, becoming one of the largest shareholders of the company, and very ably and satisfactorily filled the offices of manager, treasurer and director until the organizers and first stockholders sold out to the present owners.

On July 4, 1874, Mr. Fellers was married to Mary J. Banks, of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, where she was born, reared and attended school, a daughter of James Banks and wife, the former of whom was born in Ireland, from which country he emigrated to the United States in early life, and located in Pennsylvania, where he married a native of that state. To Mr. and Mrs. Fellers three children have been born, namely: John, who lives in Elk Creek, Nebraska; Miss Jennie, at home, and Mae, the wife of C. K. Cooper, of El Centro, California.

Mr. Fellers is a Democrat and has long been regarded as one of the leaders in his party in southeastern Nebraska, where his influence for the good of his party has been potent. He has been elected to the city council of Humboldt three times, serving six years in all, and was mayor for two terms. He has done much for the general good of his home town, both

in a business and civic way, ever being alert to its best interests and general welfare. In 1901 he was his party's choice for representative to the state Legislature and was easily elected. Serving as a member of the twenty-seventh General Assembly, he made a most commendable record, winning alike the plaudits of his constituents and members of other political parties, for he labored toward the general good of his county and vicinity. One of his more conspicuous acts was to introduce a "contest bill" for the benefit of the Legislature, the provisions of which have discouraged defeated candidates from contesting elections. Fraternally, Mr. Fellers is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a member of the Methodist church and a liberal supporter of the same. He is a well informed man on current topics and keeps well abreast of the times.

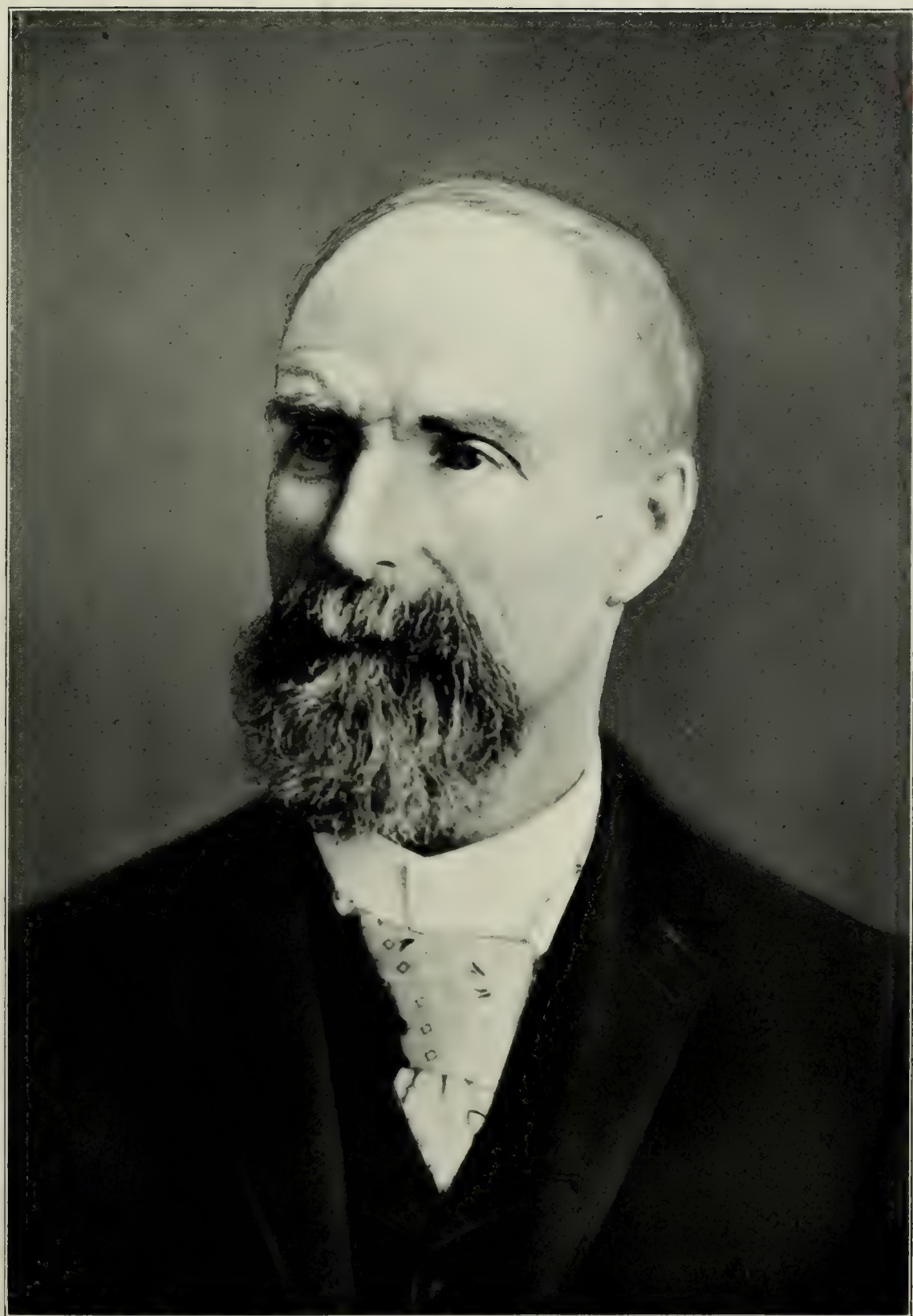
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### JOHN HARRISON RICHARDSON.

One of the old settlers of Barada precinct, Richardson county, is John Harrison Richardson, now living in retirement. He was born on October 24, 1840, in Yorkshire, England. He is a son of William Richardson, who was a miller by profession, and who left England in 1842, immigrating with his family to Toronto, Canada, where he operated a wind-mill, the only one in Toronto at that time, and there he spent the rest of his life, dying there in 1859. His wife was Mary Morly, a Scotch lady, whose death occurred at the home of the subject of this sketch in 1903.

John H. Richardson went to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1854, and worked at the carpenter's trade for nine months, then returned to Toronto, Canada, where he continued his trade, following the same there until the spring of 1861; then located in Chicago, where he continued at carpenter work until 1870. During the Civil War he worked for the United States government at Mound City, Illinois, as a ship builder. In 1870 he came to Nebraska and bought a farm. After the great fire in Chicago in the fall of 1871 he returned to that city and resumed his trade, obtaining eight dollars per day as foreman for a contractor. He is a highly skilled mechanic, one of the best carpenters ever known in this county. Besides a carpenter, he is a millwright and machinist, and built his own home and barns. He has invented a steam engine, which provides for a cylinder twenty-eight inches in diameter by thirty-two inches in length, which can be cut in half and yet give the same power, the friction thus being reduced. He has had his





JOHN H. RICHARDSON.





engine patented and is getting his appliances under way at this writing, confidently expecting to revolutionize steam power. He is building an engine along these lines, which he will use on his own farm. It is a fifty-horse-power machine and will weigh about three hundred pounds. Mr. Richardson is owner of two hundred and sixty-three and one-third acres in Barada precinct and has lived on this place continuously since coming to Richardson county in 1870, with the exception of nearly three years spent in Chicago, which city he left on account of his health. He has brought his farm place up to a high state of improvement and cultivation. He first lived in a cabin there, but later built his present commodious and attractive home. Only twenty acres of his land had been broken when he took possession. Two-thirds of the land is now in grass and hay land. Owing to his advanced years he does not raise as large grain crops as formerly.

Mr. Richardson was married on November 12, 1864, to Lucy A. Howe, who was born on March 18, 1841, in New York. She is a daughter of John L. and Cynthia (Delano) Howe, natives of New York, where they grew up and married, and from there they moved to Illinois in 1855, living on a farm near Chicago for two years. They came to Nebraska in 1870, locating on a farm in this county, where they remained until 1894, when they moved to California, and there Mr. Howe died in 1899. His wife died there in 1896. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Richardson; Herbert, who is at home; Goldie, the wife of John M. Evans, a banker, of Shubert; Mrs. Nellie Gibson, who now lives at home, and has one daughter, Gladys, and Blanche, who died when fourteen years of age. Politically, Mr. Richardson is a Republican. He belongs to the Congregational church.

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### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN REVELLE.

Contented to remain in his own locality, Benjamin Franklin Revelle, of Humboldt precinct, this county, has succeeded as a general farmer and stockman because he has understood local conditions from the first and thereby has not been delayed in adjusting himself to his surroundings, like a man is who takes up farming in a new country.

Mr. Revelle was born on the old Revelle homestead, three miles west of his present farm, April 2, 1869, son of John E. and Mary E. (Arendell) Revelle, early residents of Humboldt precinct. The father was born on December 23, 1830, at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He devoted his early life to farming and

later engaged in mercantile pursuits in St. Louis. He went to Christian county, Illinois, about 1862, and in 1865 came to Brownsville, Nebraska. In the spring of 1866 he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. During the Civil War he enlisted in the Union army, but never saw service. The homestead which he selected in section 17, Humboldt precinct, is now owned by Jacob Schultz. John E. Revelle began life here in typical pioneer fashion. His first house was built of cottonwood timber, hauled from Brownsville. He had made the trip here from Illinois in a covered wagon. In due course of time he had good crops growing on what was wild prairie sod when he came here, and he remained on the place the rest of his life, dying in 1904. He became one of the influential men of his neighborhood and played well his part of the early drama of civilization here. He helped organize the Methodist church in his vicinity.

On May 8, 1856, John E. Revelle was married to Mary E. Arendell, who was born in Alabama, February 12, 1838. Her death occurred in 1894. To this union twelve children were born, namely: Henry T., deceased; John A., who lives at Webber, Kansas; Mary J., deceased; James M., who lives in Canada; Mrs. Pearle E. Albin, who lives on a farm near Dawson; Benjamin F., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Sarah E. Trimble, a widow, who lives at Humboldt and has one child, J. Mildred; Mrs. Lucinda E. Carsh, who lives at Humboldt; Elijah, deceased; Mrs. Susan I. Nelson, who lives at Mankato, Kansas; Celia B., who lives in Los Angeles, California, and Lewis W., deceased.

Benjamin F. Revelle was reared on the home farm and he attended the rural schools, later the Humboldt high school, from which he was graduated with the class of 1891, after which he was a student in an Omaha business college. He taught in the district schools in southeastern Nebraska for a period of eight years. In 1899 he abandoned the school room and turned his attention to farming, having previously purchased forty acres, to which he later added more land, all of which he operated until 1903, when he sold out. In 1907 he bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 24, Humboldt precinct. He has made many important improvements on the place, which was first homesteaded in 1867 by Thomas S. Lynch, who built a good stone house, utilizing for that purpose the rocks on the place, and also built a barn of the native timber in 1870. The Lynchburg school house was first built on this farm, and formerly a postoffice stood on the place. One acre was set aside for the community cemetery. Mr. Revelle raises a large number of live stock, specializing on high-grade Short-



horn cattle and Poland China hogs. He is unmarried. He votes the Republican ticket, but has never been active in public affairs. He is a member of the Farmers Union and of the Modern Woodmen of America.

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### JOHN OGLE.

One of the painstaking farmers of Richardson county is John Ogle, of Nemaha township. He was born in Grant township, this county, October 3, 1875, on a farm west of the village of Dawson. He is a son of Joseph Ogle, who was born, in 1852, in Illinois, where he spent his earlier years, removing with his family to Nebraska in 1873 and locating on a farm in Grant township, this county, where he has since resided, making a success as a general farmer. He purchased his present farm north of Dawson in 1877. Joseph Ogle was married to Luretta Swisegood, who was born in Illinois in 1853. Her death occurred in November, 1906. To Joseph Ogle and wife seven children were born, namely: John, the subject of this sketch; Anna, wife of Walter Cross, living in southern Kansas; Susie, deceased; Lena, wife of A. N. Rusco, of Clay Center, Kansas; Stella, deceased; Ray, who lives in Kimball county, Nebraska, and Mary, deceased.

John Ogle was reared on the home farm, where he worked hard when a boy, and received his education in the district schools of Grant precinct. He remained with his parents on the farm until he was twenty-three years old, when he began farming for himself, renting a farm from his father from 1898 to 1905, in which latter year he bought eighty acres, which he improved. He purchased another eighty in the fall of 1916, and now owns the old home place and another place just south of the road. He is a successful general farmer and stock raiser, and his land is all well improved and under a high state of cultivation. He has a pleasant home, which is located on a high knoll overlooking the beautiful Nemaha valley. A good orchard adjoins the home on the north. He has two large barns, one of them a large, modern structure, built in 1915. Mr. Ogle is a breeder of Short-horn cattle and has a fine herd. He also operates a dairy and milks on an average of ten cows, shipping his cream to St. Joseph. He also handles on an average of two hundred and fifty head of Duroc-Jersey hogs, and ships two carloads of hogs to market each year.

Mr. Ogle was married in 190 to Fredericka Bruhn, who was born in Germany, August 1, 1879, a daughter of Frederick and Sophia (Scharples)

Bruhn, also natives of Germany, where they grew up and were married. They emigrated to America from Mecklenburg-Schwerin in 1883, locating in Chicago, Illinois, where they resided five years. In 1888 they came to Nebraska, locating on a farm five miles northeast of Verdon, in this county, but moved to Nemaha precinct in 1905. Mr. Bruhn was born in 1851 and his wife was born in 1855. To Mr. and Mrs. Ogle four children have been born, namely: Wilma, born on January 2, 1902; Edmund, August 9, 1903; Forrest, March 9, 1912, and Joseph, December 25, 1916.

Mr. Ogle is a Republican. He belongs to the United Brethren church. He has worked hard, managed well and has succeeded, now ranking among the leading farmers of his locality.

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#### HENRY H. KUPER.

It would be hard to find within the borders of Richardson county a more progressive farmer and stockman than Henry H. Kuper, of Humboldt. He was born, November 21, 1862, in Illinois, a son of Herman and Catherine (Gerdes) Kuper. The father was born in Germany, from which country he came to America when about fifteen years old, accompanied by his brother John, and settled in Illinois. He was born about 1834 and died about 1909, after devoting his active life to general farming. It was in the summer of 1865 that he came to Nebraska, driving overland from Illinois in a covered wagon, bringing his family, having only two children at that time. He settled in the northwestern part of this county, buying one hundred and sixty acres, on which he built a log cabin, later a house of cottonwood lumber. He broke up the sod with oxen, fought prairie fires and underwent the privations and hardships incident to such a life on the western frontier. He later in life was heard to remark that the only things of interest to see when he settled there were Indians and long-horned cattle. But he worked hard and succeeded, notwithstanding the dry years and the grasshopper plagues. It was quite a different country to that he had left in Illinois and he wanted to return there, but his children helped him develop the new farm, plant trees and otherwise make the place a comfortable spot on which to reside. There were no churches to attend and towns were far away. They hauled their hogs twenty-eight miles to market, after butchering them, the nearest meat market being Brownville. His wife was also disheartened, having no associates, nothing but plenty of hard work. But they stayed and later neighbors came



and they helped organize the Lutheran church in Nemaha county, just across the line from their farm. Finally, with better surroundings and good crops they became reconciled to the new country. The mother of the subject of this sketch was a native of Holland, born near the German border, in 1837. There she grew up, leaving her native land when eighteen years old, coming to America with a brother, and settling in Springfield, Illinois, where she met and married Mr. Kuper. Their union resulted in the birth of seven children, named as follow: Mrs. Mary Cordes, deceased; Henry H., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Margaret Sasse, of Diller, Nebraska; Ilert, who lives in Orban, this state; Hiram H., who makes his home in Thomas, Oklahoma; Mrs. Anna Grief, who lives in Kansas, and John, who lives in Diller, Nebraska.

Henry H. Kuper was three years old when his parents brought him to Richardson county and he grew up on the farm here, working hard when a boy, as did all boys in pioneer days. He attended the early-day schools, about two and one-half miles southeast of the old home place, at one of the first school houses built in this county. Later he was a student in the German Lutheran school. When twenty-three years old he rented land from William Preston, and in 1878 his father bought one hundred and sixty acres in Franklin precinct, the place being unimproved. To this place Henry H. Kuper removed, making extensive improvements, building an excellent dwelling and a good barn. It was one of the best houses in the locality, for he intended to remain there indefinitely, but in 1906 he sold out and bought his present farm at Humboldt, on which he has made all the improvements now to be seen there, including a modern eight-room house. The place contains one hundred and fifty-one acres, seventy-one acres of which are within the city limits of Humboldt. He also owns three hundred and fifty-six acres in Hitchcock county, Nebraska. He also formerly owned three hundred and twenty acres in Franklin precinct and considerable land in Pawnee county, this state. He has not only carried on general farming successfully, but for the past twenty-one years has been a breeder of Shorthorn cattle, and has made exhibits at state fairs at Lincoln, also at county fairs. He received second prize on his fine stock at the state fair in 1907, and took first prize at all county exhibits wherever he showed his stock that year. His herd leader is an imported animal, "Scottish Sentinel No. 353283," bred by T. B. Earle, at Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and was purchased by Mr. Kuper from Ex-Gov. A. C. Shellenberger, of Elma, Nebraska. At one time Mr. Kuper owned two fine imported bulls and four high-grade imported cows and at that time

was the only breeder in the state to own so many head of imported live stock of that kind. He was also for some time a breeder of Poland China hogs. He is regarded as one of the best judges of cattle in southeastern Nebraska and his fine stock always find a ready market at fancy prices, owing to their exceptionally high quality. He is now buying and raising stock for sales, and holds public sales about twice a year. He has large and up-to-date barns, silos and other necessary equipment for properly caring for his stock.

On October 30, 1895, Mr. Kuper was married to Olive A. Keiser, a daughter of Nimrod and Mary E. (Martin) Keiser, natives of Pennsylvania and Illinois, respectively. Nimrod Keiser was a carpenter by trade, but also devoted much of his life to farming. He came to Nebraska in an early day with his family, locating in Pawnee county, where Mrs. Kuper was born. She grew up on the farm and received a common-school education. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kuper namely: Elsie, who was graduated from the Humboldt high school with the class of 1917, and Ila, Myron and Loren, all at home.

Mr. Kuper is a Democrat, and served as assessor of his township at one time. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. He was reared in the Lutheran faith but now attends the Christian church.

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### HENRY BRECHT.

A widely-known farmer and stockman of this county is Henry Brecht, of Falls City precinct. He was born on July 24, 1866, at Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, and is a son of Carl J. and Susan (Herdle) Brecht. The father was born in Baden, Germany, in 1826, and there spent his boyhood and attended school. When about twenty years of age he came to America, locating in Buffalo, New York, where he worked at the wagon-maker's trade and was married. Later he moved to the province of Ontario, Canada, where he followed his trade and also engaged in farming for ten years. On November 14, 1867, he came to Nebraska, locating on a farm in Jefferson precinct, Richardson county. His brother Bernard had previously homesteaded a farm in the northwest corner of that precinct and upon the death of the brother, Carl J. Brecht bought the farm and there became well established, although he was a poor man when he reached this county and for some time lived in a log cabin, which he built himself. He continued to



farm until his death, which occurred in 1877. His wife, Susan Herdle, was born in Germany in 1835, and her death occurred on January 9, 1903. She was about twelve years old when her parents brought her to America, locating in Buffalo, New York. Nine children were born to Carl J. and Susan Brecht, namely: Charles J., deceased; Conrad, a retired farmer, of Falls City, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Mrs. Caroline Fenske, who lives in Hoskins, Wayne county, Nebraska; Fred, Mrs. Matheline Kruse and Peter M., all of Falls City; Mrs. Elizabeth Schmechel, a widow, who lives at Hoskins, Nebraska, and Henry, the subject of this sketch, who was the fourth in order of birth.

Henry Brecht was reared on the home farm, where he worked hard during the summer months, in the winter time attending the district schools in Jefferson precinct. He assisted his brother in conducting the old home place until 1894, when he bought sixty acres near there, where he farmed on his own account. In 1902 he bought two hundred acres near Rulo, built a barn and made other improvements there and farmed there until 1910, when he sold out and bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 13, of Falls City precinct, southwest of the old homestead. He also owns eighty acres in Jefferson precinct, making two hundred and forty acres in all. The former place had no improvements when he came here, but he now has one of the best improved farms in the locality. He has built a modern eight-room house, with basement, and also has a number of large and convenient outbuildings. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising and breeding, specializing for the past five years in breeding Poland China hogs and Shorthorn cattle, and finds a very ready market for his fine stock, owing to their superior quality. He has applied himself assiduously to his work and has managed well, being recognized as one of the leading general farmers of his precinct.

On December 20, 1894, Henry Brecht was married to Amelia Ruegge, who was born in this county on July 27, 1872, a daughter of Henry and Margaret (Thomas) Ruegge, both natives of Germany, from which country they came to America, proceeding on out to Nebraska and settling many years ago in Richardson county, where they became well established through their industry. Mrs. Ruegge is deceased and Mr. Ruegge lives in Falls City, aged seventy-two years. Mrs. Brecht was reared in her native locality and there attended the common schools. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Brecht, namely: William J., now (1917) twenty years old, who is assisting his father on the home farm, and Anna Margaret, now twelve years old.

Mr. Brecht is a Democrat and has served as a member of the local board. Fraternally, he belongs to the Royal Highlanders and to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He holds membership in the First Presbyterian church at Falls City. He is well and favorably known throughout his locality and supports all movements having for their object the general good of the precinct and county.

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### EDWARD E. AUXIER.

Edward E. Auxier, president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Verdon, a well-to-do farmer and stockman, owner of eighty acres of land forming the home place in section 7 of Liberty precinct, this county, and also holding land in the precinct of Grant, making three hundred and eighty acres in all, is a native of the old Blue Grass state, born in Johnson county, Kentucky, April 28, 1864. He is a son of Nathaniel and Hester (Mayo) Auxier, who were the parents of thirteen children, as follow: Samuel, deceased; George W., deceased; Julia, wife of James Cooley, of Prestonsburg, Kentucky; Mrs. Martha Hager, of Missouri; Mrs. Minta Friend, deceased; Andrew J., deceased; Louise, who died in infancy; Edward E., the subject of this biographical sketch; Nathaniel, a biographical sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume, and John David, who was killed in the battle of Salt Works, Virginia, during the Civil War. George W. Auxier also served as a soldier during the Civil War and was wounded during the course of an engagement in Tennessee. Andrew J. Auxier became a prominent attorney and served two terms (until 1882), as commonwealth's attorney in his home district in Kentucky. He was appointed marshal of that district by President Arthur and held that position until 1884, in which year he was nominated by the Republicans of that district for Congress, but was unable to overcome the strong Democratic majority. In 1886 he was elected district judge and was occupying the bench at the time of his death in 1892. Nathaniel Auxier, father of these children, was a farmer. He was born in Johnson county, Kentucky, in 1812, and died in 1866, when Edward E. Auxier, the subject of this sketch was but two years of age; the latter thus being left orphaned indeed, for his mother had died at the time of his birth in 1864, she then being forty-eight years of age. It should be noted that the children above enumerated are not set out in the respective order of their birth. Hester (Mayo) Auxier was born





EDWARD E. AUXIER AND FAMILY.





in Jackson county, Kentucky, a daughter of Lewis Mayo, a man of broad education and a school teacher. Lewis Mayo was a son of Jacob Mayo, who was appointed clerk of the Floyd county (Kentucky) court in 1800. The Mayos had emigrated from Fluvanna county, Virginia.

The Auxiers are an old Colonial family, the first of the name in this country, Samuel Auxerre, a Frenchman, having come here with his family in 1755 and established his home in the then colony of Pennsylvania. His descendants now are numerously represented in various parts of the country. The original name, Auxerre, in some cases has been corrupted to Ozer, but the greater part of the large connection in this country now spell it as it is seen at the head of this sketch. Sometime between 1755 and 1775 Samuel Auxerre (Auxier) moved with his family from Pennsylvania to the colony of Virginia and was living there at the time of the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. His five sons, Simon, Michael, George, Abram and Samuel enlisted their services in behalf of the patriot cause and rendered valuable service during the long struggle for the independence of the colonies. The last-named of these sons, Samuel Auxier, was too young to enlist at the beginning of the hostilities, but when fifteen years of age took his place in the fighting line and served until the end of the war, later moving to Kentucky, where he spent the rest of his life. His eldest brother, Simon, also established his home in Kentucky. Michael Auxier pushed on into the western part of Kentucky, where he died at the advanced age of one hundred and four years. George Auxier settled on the Kanawha river, in what is now West Virginia, and Abram Auxier pushed on into what then was known as the great Northwest Territory and settled in the Wabash country. Michael Auxier, the centenarian, had been scalped by an Indian in Virginia in the days of his young manhood and is said to have been "the only bald-headed Auxier ever heard of."

Samuel Auxier, the youngest son of the French immigrant, married in Virginia, July 15, 1779, Sarah Brown, a daughter of Nathaniel and Ann Brown, and in 1791 moved with his family to the Kentucky country, settling at Blockhouse Bottom, in what is now Johnson county, on the Big Sandy, where he established his home and where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring there about 1802 as the result of injuries received by falling off a horse. It was he who erected the blockhouse which gave the name to Blockhouse Bottom and some of his descendants are still living on the land granted him there in payment for his services during the Revolution. He was a man of the true pioneer type and was an Indian

fighter of renown, it having been he who restored to her family Jennie Miley, the white woman who had been held for years as a captive by the Indians, who had taken her from Virginia into the Kentucky country. Samuel and Sarah (Brown) Auxier were the parents of the following children: Nathaniel, born in June, 1780; Nancy, July 20, 1782; May Barbara, February 7, 1784; John; Daniel; Samuel, August 7, 1791; Enoch, February 22, 1795, and Frances Amelia, March, 1800. After the death of her husband about the year 1802, Sarah Auxier married Jesse Kelly, who died in service during the War of 1812. She then married John Phillips, who died in 1835. In 1843 Sarah applied for a pension as the widow of Samuel Auxier, basing her application on his services as a soldier of the Revolution. She was born on January 16, 1765, and lived to be ninety-one years of age.

Samuel Auxier, 3rd, sixth son of Samuel and Sarah Auxier, grew up on the home farm in Kentucky and in 1813 married Rebecca Phillips, by whom he had eleven children, Nathaniel, John B. (major in a Kentucky regiment during the Civil War), Jemima, George W., Sarah, Joseph, Samuel, Rebecca, Martha, Armintha and Henry J. The first-born of these children, Nathaniel Auxier, married Hester Ann Mayo, as noted in the introduction to this, and was the father of the subject of this sketch.

Deprived of both his parents while still an infant, Edward E. Auxier was reared by his elder brothers and sisters until he was sixteen years of age. He received his schooling in the district schools and also in local "subscription" schools and for four years after leaving school was engaged in teaching in his native state. In 1885 he came to Richardson county and located in Ohio precinct with a brother, Nathaniel, further reference to whom is made in another part of this work. Edward E. Auxier taught school for two years in the Deerfield and Schuyler districts, this county, and also taught near Rulo. In the fall of 1887 he bought his present farm of eighty acres and in 1888 he moved on to same. At different times he purchased other tracts and now owns three hundred and eighty acres. There were no improvements on the place at the time he took it over and he was compelled to live in a small house. In 1895 he erected a substantial house, which he later had remodeled and converted into a comfortable modern home and here he and his wife reside.

On February 13, 1887, Edward E. Auxier was united in marriage to Lucy A. Prichard, daughter of Joseph and Caroline (Compton) Prichard, natives of Kentucky, who, in 1865, came to Richardson county and settled in Arago township. Joseph Prichard died in 1914, at the age of seventy-



seven years. His widow is now living in Falls City and has reached the good round age of seventy-eight years. They were the parents of eight children.

To Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Auxier six children have been born, namely: Mabel, who married G. H. Rice and lives in Paintsville, Kentucky; Homer J., who lives in this county and married Ethel Wilkinson, daughter of Thomas Wilkinson and wife, of Dawson; Grace, who lives at home with her parents, was graduated from the Verdon high school and is now a teacher of the Harris district school; Ethel E., at home, who teaches school in Ohio precinct; Edward J., in high school at Dawson, and Ray, also in high school at Dawson.

In addition to his farming activities, Mr. Auxier has been breeding Poland China hogs for the past twenty years and has been very successful in this line. In 1906, when the farmers and Merchants Bank was organized at Verdon, Mr. Auxier became a stockholder and in the same year was elected president of the bank, which position he still retains.

Mr. Auxier is an ardent Democrat and gives close attention to the public interests of his precinct and the county generally. In 1897 he was elected county supervisor and was re-elected in 1899, holding office until 1901. During this period of service he was chairman of the board for three years, giving thorough satisfaction to his colleagues. Mr. and Mrs. Auxier and family are members of the Congregational church and generous supporters of its upkeep. Mr. Auxier is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Verdon, and to each of these organizations he gives much attention.

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### JAMES R. PAGE.

One of the best-remembered citizens of a past generation of Nemaha township, this county, whose name is deserving perpetuation on the pages of local history, was James R. Page, who passed from earthly scenes nearly a score of years ago, but whose influence is still operative for good in the locality whose interests he labored to promote in every legitimate way.

Mr. Page, who devoted his active life to agricultural pursuits, was born on September 8, 1862, and died on May 28, 1898, while still in the prime of life and usefulness. He came from Missouri to Nebraska with his parents when young in years, locating in Richardson county. In 1888 he was married

to Nancy Ellen Amos, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of John B. and Amanda T. Amos, also natives of the old Keystone state, where they grew up, were married and established their home. Remaining in Pennsylvania until 1869 they migrated to Nebraska and settled on the place where Mrs. Page now resides, Mr. Amos developing it from a wild state to one of the best farms in Nemaha township, and there he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. The father died in 1890, but the mother survived until 1907, reaching an advanced age. To Mr. and Mrs. Amos eleven children were born, five of whom survive at this writing, namely: Mrs. Laura Hedrick, of Idaho; Mrs. Emma Taylor, a resident of Seneca, Kansas; John T., living near Seneca, Kansas; Mrs. Florence Frey, of near Derby, Kansas, and Mrs. Nancy E. Page.

Four children were born to James R. Page and wife, namely: Wittie, who married Mamie Lugenbill, and lives in Speiser township; Rilla, wife of Earl Simmonds; Burt, deceased, and James R., deceased.

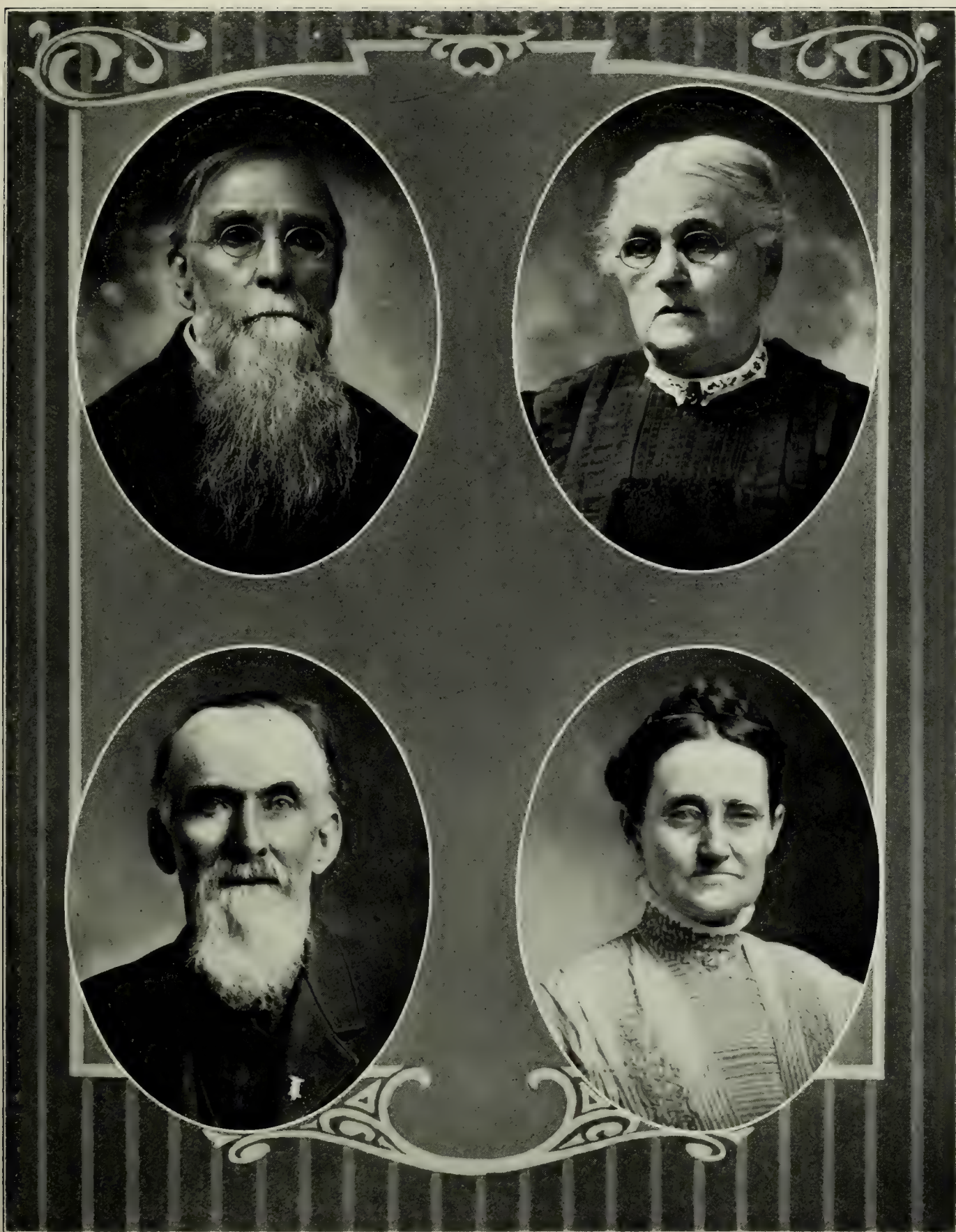
James R. Page and wife lived on the Amos homestead for three years after their marriage, and in 1891 they moved to a farm in Speiser township, where they lived fifteen years, at the end of which time they returned to the the old Amos farm. Mrs. Page is now owner of both these fine farms. They each contain one hundred and sixty acres and are well improved and productive. She has shown herself to be a capable business woman and is overseeing a general farm and live stock business in a successful manner. An excellent grade of stock of all kinds common to the locality is kept and her acres are well tilled. The Amos homestead, although now one of the oldest farms in the county, has been so carefully managed that it is just as productive as it was four decades ago. Mrs. Page attends the United Brethren church, which her husband also attended during his lifetime.

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#### THEODORE G. ATWOOD.

Among those who came from the Atlantic coast country to the rolling prairies of Nebraska to establish a home and have succeeded in the newer land is Theodore G. Atwood, of Franklin precinct, Richardson county. He was born at Trenton, New Jersey, February 3, 1865. He is a son of James and Mary (Cole) Atwood. The father was born in Birmingham, England, in 1831, and there he grew to manhood and attended school. In 1855 he set sail for our shores, locating in the state of New Jersey, where he worked





JAMES AND MARY ATWOOD.  
WILLIAM AND PERMELIA STRINGFIELD.





out as a farm hand. In 1869 he came to Richardson county, Nebraska, settling on a farm east of the town of Humboldt, remaining there until he could erect a dwelling on his own land, having purchased a tract of virgin soil in section 11, Franklin precinct. His first house was sixteen by twenty-four feet. He also built a small stable, dug a well and broke up the sod, improving the land as he could. He set out a number of trees, having the only grove of cottonwoods between his farm and Brownsville, Nebraska. While he worked on the farm his wife would often walk to Humboldt for provisions, a distance of six miles. She also was a native of England and came to America a short time after Mr. Atwood came to the United States. She was seven weeks crossing the Atlantic, in an old-fashioned sailing vessel. Her death occurred in September, 1915, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. James Atwood followed her to the grave a few weeks later, dying in October, 1915, also at a ripe old age. They were a highly esteemed pioneer couple of this county, where they worked hard and endured many hardships to get a start, but spent their declining years in comfort as a result of their earlier efforts. Nine children were born to them, namely: William, who lives in Brookfield, Missouri; Charles, who lives in Humboldt precinct, this county; Ellsworth, deceased; Theodore G., the subject of this sketch; David, deceased; Mrs. Anna Wilkinson, who lives at Auburn, Nebraska; Emma, deceased; George, deceased, and Benjamin, who lives in Franklin precinct, this county.

Theodore G. Atwood was reared on the home farm and attended the district schools at Hazel Dell school house. Like all pioneer boys he worked hard. He herded cattle on the unfenced prairies when only nine years old, both winter and summer—on the wild grass of the prairies in summer and in the cornfields in winter, usually remaining at his post with the cattle from sunrise to dark. He herded cattle about six years, and when twenty-three years old began farming for himself, renting the place he now owns, his father buying the farm later. Young Atwood became heir to one hundred and sixty acres, and later bought two hundred acres. He also, in his earlier career, worked in the coal mines and smelters in Colorado, spending three years in that state. Returning to Richardson county he has since devoted himself to general farming and stock raising in which he has reaped gratifying results, owning now three hundred and twenty acres in sections 12 and 13, Franklin precinct. His place is well improved and he has a comfortable home and such outbuildings as his needs require. He handles large numbers of live stock.

Mr. Atwood was married in 1897, to Anna Stringfield, who was born

at Falls Mills, south of Falls City, Nebraska, where she grew to womanhood and attended school. She is a daughter of William and Parmelia (Brown) Stringfield, natives of Kentucky and Illinois, respectively, and early settlers in Nebraska, who established their home in Richardson county. They maintained their home on a farm south of Falls City for many years, but are now living in Holt county, this state. The father is a veteran of the Civil War. L. H. Stringfield, grandfather of Mrs. Atwood, operated the Falls Mills in early pioneer days. He was a local preacher of the Methodist church in the early days of Iowa and Nebraska. He was born near Mammoth Cave, in Kentucky, and was married to Malinda Moore in 1827. He moved to Pettis county, Missouri, in 1843 when Georgetown was the county seat. In 1853 he removed to Sidney, Iowa. After residing in Sidney for one year he moved to a farm near Glenwood, Iowa, and there entered land costing one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. Born with the restless spirit that ever characterized the people of the western country, he once more moved westward, this time to the falls of the Nemaha river, in Nebraska, in March of 1863. There he built a mill rigged to saw lumber and grind corn and received in payment a half interest in fifteen acres of land which included the mill site. This mill was afterward turned into a flouring-mill and was operated by Stringfield & Stumbo successfully for several years. Stumbo passed away and Mr. Stringfield died near the falls in 1869, being then fifty-nine years of age. His wife died near Stella in 1896, at the age of eighty-five years. L. H. Stringfield was the father of fifteen children, six of whom are still living, namely: C. C. Stringfield, the eldest, lives on a ranch in western Kansas, and is eighty-nine years old; C. W., the youngest of the family is cashier of a bank in Idaho and is sixty-three years of age; Mrs. Mary Phipps lives in Nebraska City and is aged seventy-three years; Sarah, wife of Rev. L. F. Britt, lives in Chicago and is aged seventy-one years; John W. lives in Los Angeles and is sixty-one years old.

W. H. Stringfield was born on September 30, 1840, in Edmondson county, Kentucky, and moved with his parents to Missouri in 1843, and thence to Iowa in 1853. He drove a team of six yoke of oxen for the freighting firm of White & Marshall, of Leavenworth, in 1859, to Denver, Colorado, returning to Iowa in 1860. H. W. Stringfield enlisted in Company A, Fourth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, on September 4, 1861, and served for a period of four years and twenty-eight days. He was engaged in many battles and skirmishes in which his company participated in Missouri and Arkansas and around to Jackson, Mississippi, and from



Jackson to Birdsong Ferry on Black river. His company was a part of the Fifteenth Corps under Sherman. He fought during the siege of Vicksburg and was then engaged in continuous fighting between Vicksburg and Black river. After the war Mr. Stringfield came home to the Nemaha Falls, in October, 1865, and was married to Parmelia Brown on July 4, 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Stringfield now live at Ewing, Nebraska.

To Mr. and Mrs. Atwood three children have been born, namely: Loren, Forrest and Margaret, all of whom are at home. Mr. Atwood is a Democrat, but has not been an aspirant for political office.

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### EDWARD C. VOGELE.

Edward C. Vogele, one of the progressive young farmers of the precinct of Barada and the owner of a fine place of one hundred and twenty acres in section 23 of that precinct, was born on the farm on which he now lives and has lived there all his life. He was born on February 12, 1884, son of William and Augusta (Schibe) Vogele, pioneers of that section of the county, both of whom are now deceased.

Both William Vogele and his wife were of European birth, natives of the kingdom of Wurtemberg, the former born in 1833 and the latter in 1845, who were married in the city of Buffalo, New York, in 1864, and three years later, in 1867, came to the then new state of Nebraska and settled on a farm in the Barada strip in this county, where they established a comfortable farm home and where they spent the remainder of their lives, William Vogele dying in 1912 and his widow in February, 1913. They were members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were eleven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, the others being as follow: William, now a resident of California; Charles, also of California; Albert, of Oklahoma; Anna, deceased; Barney, of Minnesota; Lena, wife of P. Voltz, of Oklahoma; August, of Oklahoma; Henry, a farmer of Arago precinct, this county; Robert, who is farming near Rulo in this county, and Rudolph, of Minnesota.

Edward C. Vogele was reared on the farm on which he was born, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and from the days of his boyhood was a valued aid in the labors of the home place. After the death of his father he inherited eighty acres of the home farm and has since

bought an adjoining "forty," thus giving him a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, on which he has made valuable improvements and which he has brought up to an excellent state of cultivation. In addition to his general farming Mr. Vogele has given considerable attention to the breeding of horses and since 1915 has also been an extensive breeder of mules and is doing very well in his operations.

On December 24, 1907, Edward C. Vogele was united in marriage to Katherine Bliholder, who was born at McCook, this state, and to this union four children have been born, Gladys, Helen, Grace and Edwin L. Mr. and Mrs. Vogele have a very pleasant home and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. Vogele is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs.

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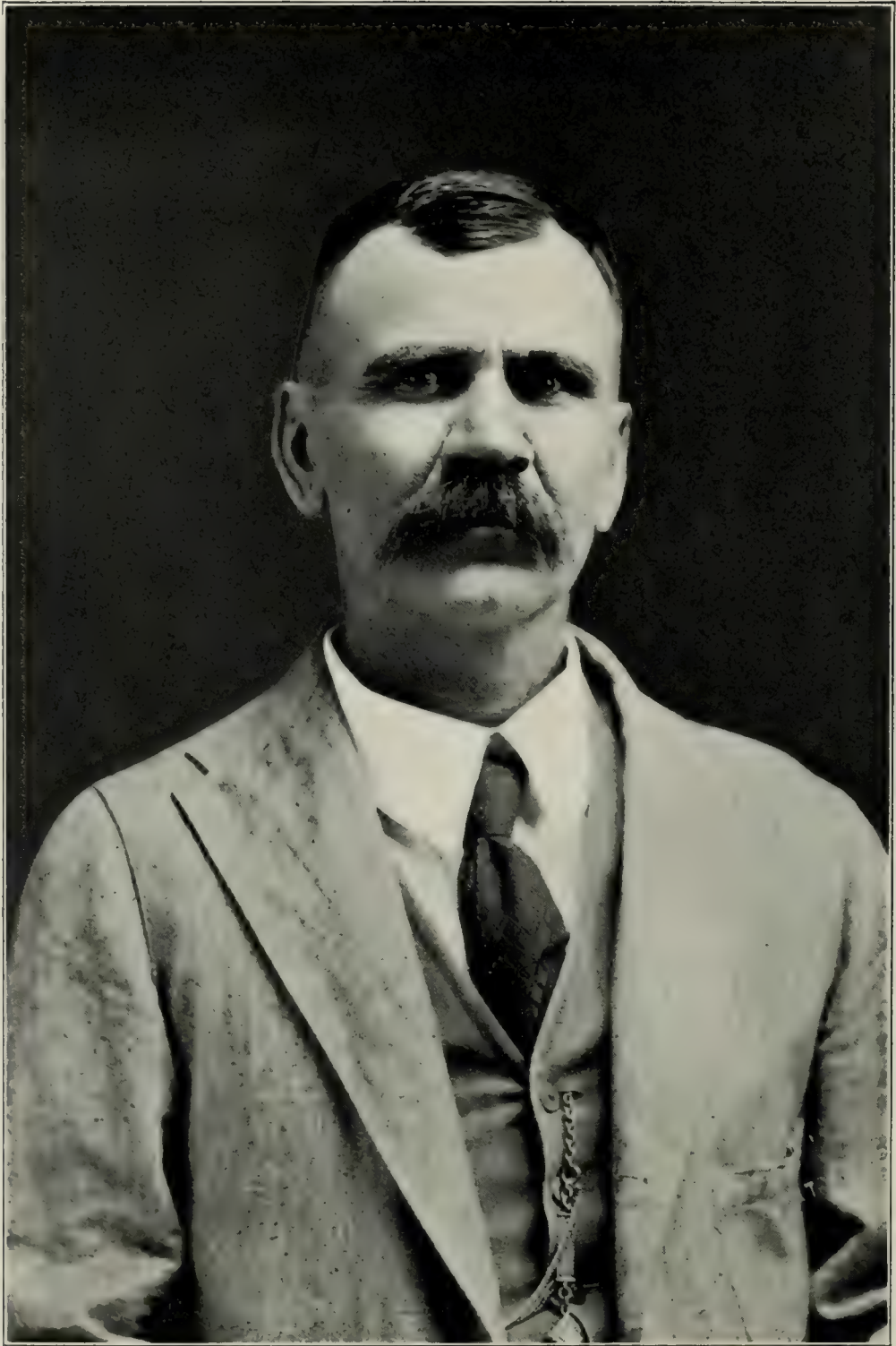
#### CHRISTIAN KAMMERER.

The Kammerer family, of which the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this sketch, is a well-known and respected representative, have been known in Richardson county since the early pioneer days, known as industrious, law-abiding citizens.

Christian Kammerer, who is farming in Falls City precinct, was born on October 30, 1868, in Arago precinct, this county, a son of Karl H. and Christina (Roesch) Kammerer. The father was born, July 10, 1831, in Baden, Germany, where he grew to manhood and made his home until 1868, when he crossed the ocean to America, the trip across the Atlantic requiring two weeks in a sailing vessel, landing in New York City. He then came by sail to St. Joseph, Missouri, thence by steamboat up the Missouri river to Arago, in the neighborhood of which place he bought raw land, eighty acres, for which he paid three dollars an acre. He built a frame house from the native cottonwood timber, and began life there in true pioneer fashion, farming there for ten years; then sold out and went to Nuckolls county, Nebraska, where his death occurred in 1896. He was married in 1858 in Germany, to Christina Roesch, and to their union seven children were born, namely: Christina, who married August Seover and is deceased; Elizabeth, widow of P. Warner, who is now living at Deweese, Nebraska; William, who makes his home in Los Angeles, California; Karl H., who lives at Flats, Nebraska; Philip, who lives at Deweese, Nebraska; August, who lives in Germany, and Christian, the subject of this sketch.







CHRISTIAN KAMMERER.





RESIDENCE OF CHRISTIAN KAMMERER.





The mother of the foregoing children died in 1870. The second marriage of Karl Kammerer took place in 1873, to Wilhelmina Last, a native of Germany, which country she left for America in the spring of 1873. She is now living in Deweese, Nebraska. To this second union nine children were born, namely: Anna, who married Clarence Ranck, editor of publications at Shenchow, Hunan, China, where he was sent by the Evangelical Missionary Society, and has two children, a son and a daughter, both born in China; Mrs. Lina Kahsea, who lives in Arapahoe, Nebraska; Albert, who lives in Vermillion, South Dakota; Otto, deceased; Mrs. Elvenia Class, who lives in Reserve, Kansas; Paul, Emma and Edward, all living in Deweese, Nebraska, and Martha, who lives in Los Angeles, California.

Christian Kammerer was reared on the farm and attended the early-day district schools. When twenty-one years old he began working as a farm hand. In 1894 he began renting land at Preston, Nebraska, and in 1898 bought his present farm of ninety-three acres in sections 24 and 25, Falls City precinct. He also owns eighty acres in Jefferson precinct, making one hundred and seventy-three acres in all. He is carrying on general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of Poland China hogs. There was only a log cabin on the place when he came here. In 1915 he built a modern and commodious home, which he equipped with a hot-water heating plant, electric lights, etc., and he has also built an up-to-date barn and other convenient outbuildings. Mr. Kammerer has made exhibits of corn, wheat, oats and eggs at the farmers institutes at Falls City. He has a productive and well-kept farm, fifteen acres of which is still in native timber.

On February 13, 1896, Mr. Kammerer was married to Louise Hartman, who was born, March 27, 1871, in Wisconsin. She is a daughter of Frederick and Wilhelmina (Hoffeins) Hartman, natives of Germany, who came to America on the same ship which carried the parents of her husband to the new land. They located in Wisconsin, where they lived until 1882, when Mr. Hartman came to Richardson county, Nebraska, his first wife having died in Wisconsin. His second wife is now living on the old home place, seven and one-half miles northeast of Falls City, where his death occurred many years ago. Mrs. Kammerer was eight years old when her father brought her to Richardson county, and here she made her home with her sister, Mrs. John Brecht, until her marriage. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kammerer, namely: Milton, Edgar, Alice E., and Lester L.; all at home.

Politically, Mr. Kammerer is an independent voter. He belongs to the German Lutheran church. He has been a member of the school board in

district No. 55 for the past sixteen years. He has an interesting collection of Indian relics gathered from his farm, including canes, axes, spear heads, etc., among which is one of the largest stone axes in the county.

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### HENRY F. PRIBBENO.

Henry F. Pribbeno, proprietor of a fine farm of four hundred and forty acres in section 24 of the precinct of Arago, this county, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life. He was born on January 1, 1871, son of Charles and Caroline (Thompson) Pribbeno, both of European birth, the former born in Prussia and the latter in Norway, who became substantial residents of this county and here spent their last days.

Charles Pribbeno was born in 1846 and remained in his native Prussia until the days of his young manhood, when he came to the United States and after a sometime residence in Wisconsin went to the mining regions of the West and staked out a number of silver-mining claims. About the year 1865 he came to the then Territory of Nebraska and settled in Richardson county, engaging in freighting from the river landing at Arago over the plains to Colorado and other points West. In the meantime he bought a tract of land in section 24 of Arago precinct and after a while established his home there, becoming one of the most substantial farmers and most extensive stock feeders in that section, remaining there until his death. His wife, who was born in June, 1841, and who was but a girl when her parents came to this country from Norway, died in 1909. Charles Pribbeno and wife were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Charles, of Preston, this state; Sophia, Emma and Sophia (second), who died in infancy; Mrs. Anna Ernst, a widow, living at Preston, and William, deceased.

Reared on the farm on which he was born, Henry F. Pribbeno received his early schooling in the district schools of Arago and supplemented the same by a course in Campbell College at Holton, Kansas. From the days of his boyhood he had been a valued aid in the labors of developing and improving the home place and after leaving college he settled down on the home farm and began farming there on his own account, renting land from his father. After his marriage in the spring of 1896 he established his home there and in 1902 bought the home place from his father and has since continued to own and operate the same. Mr. Pribbeno has a well-



cultivated place of four hundred and forty acres, in addition to his general farming giving considerable attention to the raising of Shorthorn cattle, and is doing very well in his operations. Since taking possession of the farm he has made numerous substantial improvements and his farm plant is now one of the best in that part of the county.

On April 16, 1896, Henry F. Pribbeno was united in marriage to Elizabeth Werner, who also was born in the precinct of Arago, February 6, 1876, daughter of Ernest and Caroline (Miller) Werner, who are now living retired in Falls City, and to this union the following children have been born: Caroline, Fred, Esther, Anna, Elsie, Mary (deceased), Ruth, Emma (deceased), Walter and Florence. Mr. and Mrs. Pribbeno are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and take a proper part in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. Pribbeno is an independent Republican. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes an active part in the affairs of the same.

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#### ALEXANDER RANKIN McMULLEN.

Alexander Rankin McMullen, one of the most substantial and progressive farmers and stockmen of the northern part of Richardson county and the proprietor of a fine farm of four hundred acres in the precinct of Muddy, two miles east of Stella; and of one of the finest farm residences in this county, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of Richardson county since the days of his young manhood and has done well his part in the labors of developing the northern part of the county. He was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, December 6, 1862, son of Dr. Thomas and Rebecca (Swan) McMullen, both natives of that same state and the latter of whom became a pioneer of this county, where her last days were spent.

Dr. Thomas McMullen was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, in 1828, a son of Alexander McMullen, of Scottish descent, who had come to this country from the north of Ireland and had settled in western Pennsylvania. The Doctor married Rebecca Swan, a daughter of the Rev. Samuel Swan, one of the most influential men in that part of the state, and for years was engaged in the practice of his profession at Greenville, Pennsylvania, where he died in 1884, at the age of fifty-six years. He and his

wife were the parents of eleven children, eight of whom are still living, the three eldest being deceased, the survivors, besides the subject of this sketch, the fourth in order of birth, being as follow: Elizabeth Morehead, of Tarkio, Missouri; Genevieve Blanche, also of Tarkio; James Wallace McMullen, of Loveland, Colorado; Dr. Charles Bell McMullen, a member of the faculty of Tarkio College; Richard Bard McMullen, also of Tarkio; Mrs. Jeannette Beatie, of the precinct of Muddy, this county, and Jessie Poe McMullen, formerly a secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association, and now a teacher in the high school at Tarkio. In 1884, following the death of her husband, Mrs. Rebecca McMullen came out to Nebraska with nine of her children and entered upon possession of a tract of four hundred and eighty acres of fine land in the precinct of Muddy, this county, which Dr. Thomas McMullen had previously purchased, he having made some excellent investments in this state, and here she spent the remainder of her life, her death occurring on November 17, 1908, she then being seventy-three years of age.

Alexander Rankin McMullen was reared at Greenville, Pennsylvania, where for years his father was a practicing physician, and completed his schooling at Elders Ridge Academy. He was twenty-one years of age when he came to this county with his mother and the others of the family and upon him fell the management of the farm which had been left to his mother, and there he continued to make his home until his marriage in 1893, when he established his home on his present place two miles east of Stella, where in the summer of 1903, he erected a commodious new modern house, one of the finest farm residences in Richardson county. Mr. McMullen is the owner of four hundred acres of land and has two other houses on his place for the use of his farm help. Near his home he has a fine apple orchard of ten acres and in the care of these trees takes much personal interest. For years Mr. McMullen has been a breeder of live stock and formerly gave much attention to the feeding of cattle for the market, in the height of his activities in that direction his operations in live stock reaching twenty thousand dollars annually, and he long has been recognized as one of the most substantial farmers and stockmen in the northern part of the county. Mr. McMullen is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office. He was reared a Presbyterian, but he and his family are now attendants at the Lutheran church.

On June 14, 1893, Alexander Rankin McMullen was united in marriage



to Nellie Tynan, who was born at Peru, this state, daughter of Andrew Tynan and wife, pioneers of this part of Nebraska and further and fitting mention of which family is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Mildred, born on May 3, 1897, who died on June 9, 1915; Richard Andrew, December 29, 1903, and Joseph Rankin and Philip Bard, twins, August 24, 1906.

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### PATRICK F. MURPHY.

The general appearance of Patrick F. Murphy's farm in Falls City precinct would indicate that a man of thrift and good management was at the helm there. Mr. Murphy was born in Clinton county, Iowa, February 3, 1860, a son of Michael and Ellen (Tobin) Murphy. Michael Murphy was born in Ireland about 1820, but left that country when young with his parents, the family locating in Canada, later coming to Iowa. In 1872 he came to Nemaha county, Kansas, and established his home in Richmond township, one mile and a half west of Seneca. He lived there about five years, then came to Richardson county, locating on a farm northwest of Falls City, in Barada township, and there he engaged in farming and made numerous improvements until 1880, when he bought land in the southwestern part of Jefferson precinct, where he farmed until his death, which occurred in 1885. His wife was also born in Ireland, about 1821. Her death occurred in 1880. They were members of the Catholic church. To these parents twelve children were born, eight sons and four daughters, of whom Patrick F., of this sketch, was the ninth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Edward R., a veteran of the Civil War, who now lives in Seneca, Kansas; Mary J., who married P. Casey, and is now deceased; Thomas F., deceased; James, who lives in Moberly, Missouri; Ella, wife of John Draney, of Seneca, Kansas; John, who lives in Oklahoma; Lizzie, wife of Jerry Kanaly, a retired farmer and extensive landowner, now living retired in Falls City; Michael D., who lives in Oklahoma; Robert, who lives in Falls City; Margaret, wife of Mat. Kanaly, of Edmond, Oklahoma, and William, deceased.

Patrick F. Murphy was reared on the farm and he attended the district schools when a boy. He remained at home with his father until the latter retired from active life in 1885, when the son traded for his present farm of one hundred and sixty-three acres in Falls City precinct. He has made

many improvements here and has carried on general farming and stock raising. Most of the original buildings on the place were demolished by a tornado. Mr. Murphy is a Democrat and has served as a member of the local school board in district 94. He belongs to the Catholic church and, fraternally, holds membership in the Knights of Columbus and in the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Mr. Murphy was married on February 16, 1885, to Hannah Moran, who was born, July 10, 1862, in Canada. She is a daughter of John and Mary (Barrett) Moran, who moved from Canada to Missouri and later, in 1870, to Nebraska, and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Rulo, this county. The father later bought land near Preston. He and his wife are both now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Murphy eleven children have been born, namely: Mrs. Mary Stump, who lives in Texas; Thomas, who lives in Falls City; Paul, Alice and John, at home; Leo, deceased; Grace, deceased; William, a student in St. Benedict College at Atchison, Kansas; Vera, at home; Ruth, who is in a convent in Falls City, and Bernice, deceased.

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### WILLIAM SANBORN HEWS.

No more progressive and scientific agriculturist could be found in western Richardson county than William Sanborn Hews, of Franklin precinct. He was born on the old Hews homestead just east of Verdon, in this county, a son of Sanborn Smith Hews, who was born in 1828, near Trenton, Ontario, Canada, of Scotch parentage, and who died in 1895. His wife was Alida Longshore, born in 1828, who died in 1880. Their children were named as follow: Joseph, David and Samuel, all three of whom died in Richardson county; William S., the subject of this sketch; Mary Margaret, who died in Iowa, and Abner, who is engaged in farming in Franklin precinct, this county.

Sanborn S. Hews grew to manhood in Canada and when a young man went to Ogdensburg, New York, and was married in St. Lawrence county, that state, in 1850. He later moved to a farm near Wilwaukee, Wisconsin, where he resided fifteen years, or until 1865, when he moved to Newton, Jasper county, Iowa, and purchased a farm. In 1868 he came to Nebraska and bought one hundred and sixty acres east of Verdon, in Richardson county, which he improved and on which he built a comfortable home. After his wife's death he moved to Falls City and engaged in the drug business a while, but several years later he returned to farming.



William S. Hews received a common school education, but he left school when only twelve years old and went to work on the place he now owns, at a wage of eight dollars a month, remaining there three years; then worked on another farm, but later worked here again for two years. In 1892, when twenty-two years old, he began farming for himself, operating a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Franklin precinct for two years. He then rented the Gavitt farm for sixteen years, during which period he saved enough money to buy his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 13, Franklin precinct, and has made many important improvements on the same. He has a large modern barn, good hog house and other outbuildings such as his needs require. He has a commodious eight-room house, with bath and other up-to-date conveniences. An extensive evergreen windbreak is also to be seen on the place. Mr. Hews has been very successful as a general farmer and stockman, having forged ahead by hard work and perseverance, starting from the bottom with nothing. One thing that he is proud of is that his great-grandfather, Joseph Hews, of North Carolina, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Hews is a Democrat, but has never sought the emoluments of public office.

On December 30, 1896, William S. Hews was united in marriage to Minna McDougall, who was born in Porter precinct, this county, May 25, 1873, and who was reared in Humboldt, where she attended school. Her father was an early-day plainsman, having come West in the late fifties. In 1859 he bought land in Porter precinct, this county, and there developed a good farm through hard work and perseverance. During the Civil War he served in the Fourth Iowa Battery, taking part in a number of engagements. After his war service he taught school at Monterey school house for three terms. For some time he engaged in freighting with J. K. Cornelius and also with Elmore Crow. Mr. McDougall was born in Indiana on January 2, 1841, and his death occurred on January 11, 1908. He was in the army three years, and served for some time as regimental clerk. He was an excellent penman. He crossed the plains three times. His wife, Hattie Barnhart, was born in Ohio, June 2, 1846, and is now living in Humboldt. The McDougall family moved to Humboldt in 1875, and there Mr. McDougall engaged in business the rest of his life. His family consisted of but two children, Minna, wife of Mr. Hews, and William, who died in 1912. Mr. McDougall was a member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

## THOMAS G. BOWKER.

Thomas G. Bowker, vice-president of the Bank of Rulo, at Rulo, this county, one of the large landowners of that part of the county and for years actively identified with the affairs of that community, is a native son of Richardson county and has lived here all his life. He was born at Rulo on August 25, 1872, a son of Thomas B. and Margaret Bowker, natives of England, who were married in Canada and who came to Nebraska in 1859 and located at Rulo, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the latter dying there in 1874, when the subject of this sketch was but two years of age.

Thomas B. Bowker was trained to the railway service in his youth and in Canada was an agent for the Grand Trunk Railroad. His younger brother, George Bowker, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, had come down to this part of the country in 1857, becoming a large landowner in the eastern part of Richardson county, and about three years afterward he moved down here from Canada to participate in the advantages which seemed to be beckoning the earnest, energetic, pioneering type of men. Upon his arrival here Thomas B. Bowker bought a tract of land in the neighborhood of the landing at Rulo and began farming and cattle raising, taking an active part in the work of the early development of that region. When the railroad came out this way he took part in the christening ceremony when the road was completed and when the station was established at Rulo he was made the first station agent and continued acting in that capacity for some years. Thomas B. Bowker died in 1889, leaving three children, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mrs. Alice Lewis, of Pennsylvania, and Margaret, who makes her home with him at Rulo.

Reared on the home farm in the vicinity of Rulo, Thomas G. Bowker received his early schooling in the schools of that place and completed the same in Christian Brothers College at St. Joseph. Upon leaving college he returned to the farm and was there successfully engaged in farming until 1903, when he became bookkeeper in his uncle's bank at Rulo and upon the death of his uncle the next year was made vice-president of the bank and has since occupied that position, one of the best-known bankers in this part of the state. In addition to his interest in the Bank of Rulo Mr. Bowker is the owner of seventeen hundred acres of land in the precinct of Rulo and has long been accounted one of the most substantial citizens of that part of the county. Politically, Mr. Bowker is a Democrat and gives





Thos. G. Bowker





a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and takes a proper interest in neighborhood good works, helpful in many ways in promoting the best interests of that community.

The Bank of Rulo had its origin in the old First National Bank of Rulo, which was established on March 30, 1887, by S. B. Miles, John W. Holt, F. O. Edgecombe, J. H. Miles, George Bowker, Clarence Gillespie, P. H. Jussen and F. Godfirnan, F. O. Edgecombe being the first cashier. In September, 1891, that bank was succeeded by the Bank of Rulo, with S. B. Miles as president; George Bowker, vice-president, and B. F. Cunningham, cashier. The present officers of the bank are as follows: President, J. H. Miles; vice-president, Thomas G. Bowker; cashier, W. J. Cunningham. The bank statement of March, 1917, showed that the bank, capitalized at \$20,000, had deposits of \$182,000.

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### HON. CASS JONES.

In the historical section of this volume there is set out at considerable length the interesting story of the adventures of the late William M. Jones, who died at his home in Rulo township, this county, in 1913, and of his son, the Hon. Cass Jones, the subject of this biographical sketch, both of whom played an important part in the work of settlement during the early days of the establishment of a social order throughout this part of Nebraska, and it will therefore not be necessary to go into detail here in settling out some of the trials and hardships suffered by the Joneses in getting a start in the new country back in pioneer days.

Cass Jones, an honored veteran of the Civil War, former representative from this county to the Nebraska General Assembly and one of the best-known and most substantial of the pioneer residents of Rulo township, owner of a fine farm of four hundred acres there, is a native of the state of Illinois, but has been identified with the development of the state of Nebraska from the days of his young manhood, and there are few men in this section of the state who have a wider or more intimate acquaintance with pioneer conditions hereabout than he. He was born on a farm in the vicinity of St. Augustine, in Fulton county, Illinois, October 28, 1840, son of William M. and Rebecca (Morris) Jones, the former a Virginian and the latter a

native of the state of Pennsylvania, who were married in Ohio, later became residents of Illinois and still later, pioneers of Nebraska, early settlers of Richardson county, where both spent their last days, honored and influential residents of the Rulo neighborhood.

William M. Jones was born on a farm near Blue Springs, in Tazewell county, Virginia, September 6, 1812. His parents also were born in Virginia, the father of Scottish descent and the mother of German descent. When he was but three years of age his father emigrated with his family from Virginia to Ohio and took up a tract of "Congress land" in Jackson county, in the latter state, built a log house on the tract and there established his home. In that pioneer home William M. Jones grew to manhood, taking advantage of such schooling as offered in those days in that vicinity, and became a practical farmer. On August 1, 1832, he then being but nineteen years of age, he married Rebecca Morris, who was born in Pennsylvania on January 28, 1810, but who had also been reared in Jackson county, Ohio, her parents having moved there from Pennsylvania when she was but a child, and after his marriage rented one of his father's farms and established his home, living there for three years, at the end of which time he decided to have a home of his own in the wider stretches of the new country then being developed farther to the west. With that end in view, accompanied by his wife's father and two brothers, he moved to Illinois and took a squatter's right to a quarter of a section of land in Fulton county, in the western part of the state, near the Illinois river. There he built another log house and settled down to the lot of a pioneer prairie farmer; but in 1840 disposed of his interests there and moved with his family to Iowa, making the trip in a wagon he made for himself, using a large sycamore tree for the purpose. The wheels of this rude vehicle were four-inch cross sections of the bole of the sycamore and there were neither bolts, nails nor iron of any kind in the wagon, the same being made entirely of wood. Upon his arrival in Iowa, William M. Jones pre-empted a quarter of a section of land in Johnson county, in the eastern part of the state, and with the three yoke of cattle, five cows, one horse and six pigs he had brought with him from Illinois began farming on another pioneer farm. Ten years later, in 1850, he sold that place for eleven hundred dollars in gold and moved to Cass county, in the southwestern part of Iowa, where he bought a saw- and grist-mill and a dwelling house, paying for the property seven hundred dollars in gold. There he continued in the milling business for several years and with the help of his sons did a good business, remaining there until 1856, in which year he disposed of his mill and came to the then Territory of Nebraska,



settling on the west bank of the Missouri river, in Dakota county, where he entered a tract of government land and again started "pioneering." During the second winter of his residence there all his cattle save one yoke of oxen were frozen to death and he decided that such a place was not fitted for human habitation. Selling his land for one hundred dollars he moved south, settling on the Delaware Indian reserve land in Leavenworth county, Kansas, where he remained until the fall of 1859, when he emigrated to Texas, expecting there to engage in the business of cattle raising. But he found a cold reception in Texas, the feeling at that time existing there against Abolitionists being expressed in such vigorous term by the Texans that in the fall of 1860 he was glad to get away on any terms, and he returned to Leavenworth county, Kansas, where he traded a yoke of oxen to an Indian for a quarter of a section of land and began grazing cattle. But even there he was doomed to further disturbance, for the "Jayhawkers" made it so unpleasant for him, stealing his horses and cattle and threatening his life, that he again felt it necessary to move and as soon as possible got out of the county and came farther north, settling a few miles north of Rulo Landing, in this county. There he found a few families preparing to make the long journey to the Pacific coast and in the spring of 1863, with seven other families, started for Oregon, arriving there, after innumerable hardships, in October of that same year. Mr. Jones purchased a quarter of a section of land about fifteen miles southeast of Portland and there once more settled down to a job of "pioneering," but conditions presently began to prove disappointing and in the spring of 1865 he sold out and came back to Nebraska. He spent the winter at Omaha and in the spring of 1866 returned to Richardson county, where he and his sons, Charles and Cass, bought a half section of land from a "squaw man" and settled on the banks of the Missouri, about three miles north of Rulo. There William M. Jones continued farming until he was eighty years of age, doing most of the work himself, for he always was a man of much physical vigor and of enormous powers of resistance. When eighty years of age he sold his place to one of his sons and he and his wife then retired from the active labors of the farm, though continuing to make their home on the place, and there Mrs. Jones died on October 12, 1909, she then being ninety-nine years, eight months and fourteen days of age. William M. Jones survived his wife until February 11, 1913, he then being past one hundred years of age. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, Phoebe, Charles, Henry, Cass, Margaret, Rachel, Lewis, Louise and Stephen, and at the time of his death William M. Jones

had six living children, twenty-eight grandchildren, fifty-four great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren, a patriarch indeed.

Cass Jones was but five years of age when his parents moved from Illinois to Iowa and in the latter state he received his schooling, going to school at Iowa City, county seat of his home county there. When his father engaged in the milling business in Cass county, same state, Cass Jones became an active assistant in that enterprise and remained with his father during the latter's subsequent move to this county and later to Kansas and thence to Dallas county, Texas, from which place the family, as Northern sympathizers, were run out, as noted above. When the Civil War broke out Cass Jones was twenty years of age and on May 5, 1861, at Leavenworth, he enlisted for service as a member of Company I, Second Kansas Cavalry, to serve six months. During the battle of Wilson's Creek, Mr. Jones's horse was shot from under him and he was pinned beneath the fallen animal, his right hip being dislocated, his right shoulder severely injured and his jaw broken. After two months spent in the hospital at Springfield he rejoined his regiment, but his term of enlistment having expired he was discharged, November 18, 1861. Shortly afterward, he by that time having sufficiently recovered from his injuries to re-enter active service, Mr. Jones re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, which was being reorganized for the three-year service, and resumed his place at the front; presently being promoted to the rank of regimental sergeant-major and later assigned as a body guard to Adjutant-General Bell, a staff officer in General Sibley's command. Later, at his own request and with a desire to get into more active service, Mr. Jones was transferred to Company I, Second Nebraska Cavalry, and with that command served until his discharge, November 18, 1863, at Sioux City, Iowa.

About the time of the completion of his military service, the Powder River expedition was being organized at Sioux City and Cass Jones took service with that expedition, under the employ of the government, as a wagon-master, and participated in that notable expedition until its completion, being finally paid off at Kearney, later rejoining his parents and his family at Omaha; remaining there until the spring of 1866, when the family returned to Richardson county and settled a few miles north of Rulo, where Mr. Jones has ever since made his home, and where he and his family are very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. Mr. Jones has done well in his farming operations and has increased his original farm holdings of a quarter of a section of land until he now has a fine farm of four hundred



acres. He is an active Republican, as was his father, and during the sessions of the Nebraska Legislature of 1903 and 1907, served the people of Richardson county as representative. Mr. Jones also has served as school director in his district for ten years or more and for eight years was road supervisor. He has been a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons since 1864 and is one of the charter members of Trego Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Rulo.

Mr. Jones has been twice married. On March 25, 1869, he was united in marriage to Amanda E. Mowery, who died on March 8, 1888, and is buried in the Lutheran church burial grounds, a few miles west of the Jones home. On December 30, 1896, at Oregon, Missouri, Mr. Jones married Caroline Matilda Keil, a daughter of Carl and Augusta (Belute) Keil, natives of Germany and early settlers in Missouri. Carl Keil died at St. Louis when his daughter Caroline Matilda was but an infant and his widow was afterward twice married. She was the mother of eight children, seven by her first marriage and one by her last marriage. Of these children, three daughters are still living, Mrs. Jones having two sisters living in Holt county, Missouri. Mr. Jones has six children, namely: Harlan Jones, of Anadarko, Oklahoma; William Jones, of that same place; Elston Jones, a well-known resident of the Rulo neighborhood; Mrs. Bessie Bochman, who lives on one of her father's farms north of Rulo, and Miss Mina Jones and Mrs. Effie Vogel, who also live near their father's place. Mr. Jones has fourteen grandchildren.

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#### WILLIAM RIESCHICK.

William Rieschick, a well-known retired pioneer farmer of Richardson county and a substantial landowner of the precinct of Arago, now living at Falls City, where he has made his home since 1905, is of European birth, born in a village in Germany on June 2, 1831, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-five years of age and of this county since 1858, having come here in territorial days, and has thus seen this region develop from the days of the open plains. He was the fourth in order of birth of the eight children, five sons and three daughters, born to his parents, John Frederick and Johanna (Barden) Rieschick, also natives of Germany, who spent all their lives in their native land. Of these eight children, all save one came to America and here reared families, but all are now dead with the

exception of the subject of this sketch and his brother, Adolph Rieschick, the latter of whom is a resident of McCook, this state.

Reared in his native village, William Rieschick there learned the cabinet-maker's trade and became a highly-skilled craftsman in that line. He served for two years and six months in the army and then, in 1856, he then being twenty-five years of age, came to the United States, Buffalo, New York, being his destination. Upon his arrival in that city he had but one dollar left of the not overly large fund with which he started, but he had no difficulty in securing work at his trade and lost little time in settling down to work, his first wage being one dollar a day; but as he was a skilled workman this wage presently was increased to one dollar and seventy-five cents a day. Not long afterward, however, on account of the general business depression noticeable about that time, wages were cut and Mr. Rieschick decided that the thing for him to do was to come out to the then new West and "grow up with the country." With that end in view he came to the then Territory of Nebraska in 1858 and was so charmed with the view upon his arrival at old Arago that he determined here to make his permanent home. As Mr. Rieschick says: "When I arrived at Arago in the springtime and looked out over the bluffs overlooking the vast plains of Nebraska, grass covered and dotted with flowers, I beheld the most beautiful view my eyes ever looked on." And in all the years that have elapsed since then he has not changed his opinion of this region gained on that first distinctive impression. Upon his arrival here Mr. Rieschick found plenty of calls for his service as a carpenter and builder and he began working at Arago and at other points throughout this county and over the river in Missouri, much of his pay for services rendered being made in hogs, chickens and cattle, he and his eldest brother, who had accompanied him, buying a small tract of land and stocking the same with the live stock thus obtained. It was in April, 1860, that the Rieschick brothers moved on to that little farm of thirty acres. Among the live stock they had received were seventeen hogs, but as there was no feed for the hogs the animals wandered off and did not return until fall, when the crops had matured, by which time there had been a quite noticeable increase in the drove. On that place Mr. Rieschick and his brother remained for seven years. By this time William Rieschick had become the owner of a team of horses and had paid down two hundred dollars on an "eighty" of his own in the center of the precinct of Arago, also trading in on the same a town lot in the old town of Arago which had come into his possession, and decided to marry and "settle down." In 1865 he married and established



his home on that "eighty," having meanwhile made considerable initial improvement on the same, declaring: "I'll make my living here or die!" Needless to say, he did not die and it is equally certain that he prospered, for he long has been recognized as one of the county's most substantial land-owners. During the first years of his farming Mr. Rieschick, in common with most of the pioneers of this region, felt the effects of "hard times," and he still recalls that at one time the price of farm produce had fallen to such a point that he had to give three dozen eggs for a box of matches, but those depressing days presently passed and he began to see his way clear to the competence for which he had left his native land and journeyed out here to the great Western land of opportunity. In 1869 Mr. Rieschick bought an adjoining quarter of a section of land, paying for the same eight dollars an acre, and when his sons had grown to the point of being able to care for land for themselves he bought an additional tract of four hundred and forty acres, paying for the same fifty dollars an acre, and he recalls that he found it much easier to pay for this last tract than it was to pay for his original "eighty." On that farm Mr. Rieschick continued to make his home until 1905, in which year he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Falls City, where he and his family are very comfortably situated, having a beautiful home surrounded by an orchard at the end of Sixteenth street.

In 1865 William Rieschick was united in marriage to Varina Hunzeikle, who was born in the republic of Switzerland in 1844 and who was but ten years of age when she came to this country with her parnets in 1854, and to this union six children have been born, namely: August Wilhelm, who died at the age of twenty-three years; Amiel William, who died at the age of two years and three months; John W., a substantial farmer living four miles north of Falls City; the Hon. William F. Rieschick, a farmer living one mile east of Falls City and who is the present representative from Richardson county in the Nebraska state Legislature; Albert W., who is farming the old home place in the precinct of Arago, and Amelia Varina, who is at home with her parents. Mrs. Rieschick is a member of the Lutheran church and her children attend that church. Upon attaining his citizenship here Mr. Rieschick affiliated himself with the Republican party, but in the memorable campaign of 1896 joined his political fortunes with those of William Jennings Bryan and has ever since been an ardent Bryan Democrat. For two years during his residence on the farm he served as precinct treasurer. Mr. Rieschick has never lost his interest in woodworking and

has in his home some rarely beautiful specimens of his craftsmanship, including a combination bookcase and desk, made of walnut, which is generally regarded as the finest piece of work of its kind in Nebraska and which Mr. Rieschick holds as a priceless possession.

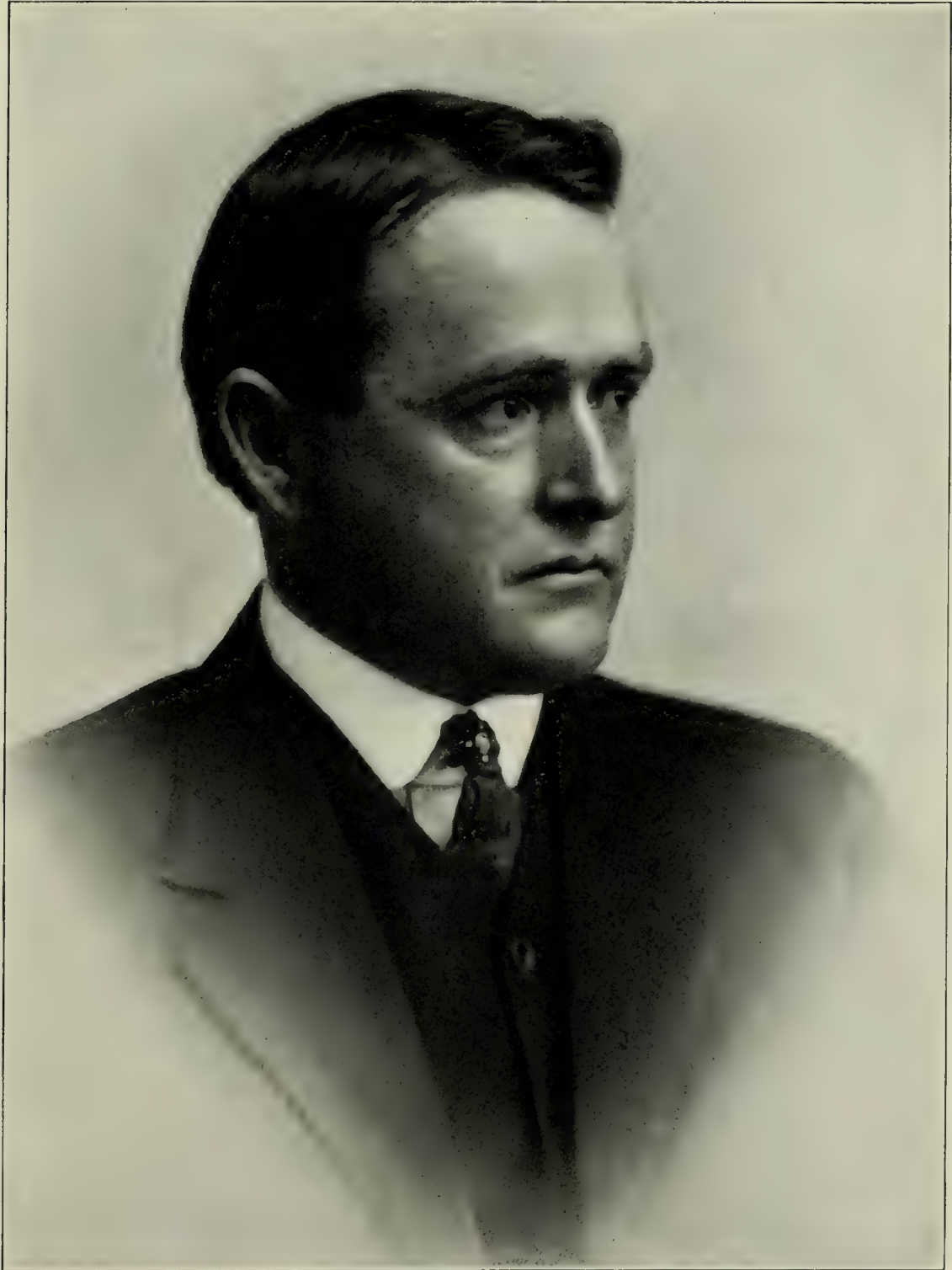
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### WILLIAM T. FENTON.

Nebraska has been especially fortunate in the character and career of her public men. In every section have been found men born to leadership, men who have been able successfully to discharge the duties of official position because of their sterling qualities and force of character. It is profitable to study such lives, weigh their motives and hold up their achievements as incentives to greater activity and higher excellence on the part of others. These reflections are suggested by the career of William T. Fenton, ex-sheriff of Richardson county and the present warden of the Nebraska State penitentiary at Lincoln.

Mr. Fenton was born in this county on October 2, 1872, a scion of an honored old pioneer family of this section of the state, being a son of Jerry and Catherine (Calnan) Fenton. The father was born in Ireland in 1830 and there spent his boyhood, immigrating to America when seventeen years old, being accompanied by his mother, four brothers and one sister. The family located at Richmond, Virginia, where they remained until in the sixties when they came to Nebraska, locating on a farm near Dawson in Richardson county. Jerry Fenton and Catherine Calnan were married before leaving Virginia, prior to the breaking out of the Civil War. He developed a good farm in Richardson county through close application and perseverance and established a comfortable home here. He continued general farming and stock raising successfully on his farm of one hundred and sixty acres until about five years prior to his death. He died in 1914, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. He was an influential man in his community and helped organize nearly all the schools of the Dawson neighborhood. He was active in the Catholic church and was the only trustee of the church in his vicinity. The mother of the subject of this sketch was also born in Ireland, the date of her birth being 1838. She came to Virginia with her parents when seven years old. To Jerry and Catherine Fenton twelve children were born, five of whom are deceased; those living at this writing being as follows: Mrs. Mary S. Kane of Dawson; Mrs. Ella Riley,





WILLIAM T. FENTON.





also of Dawson; Thomas F., who lives at Reedley, California; Robert E., who lives at Haddam, Kansas; Mrs. Catherine Carr; Mrs. Nora Ryan, who makes her home at Dawson, and William T., the subject of this review.

No doubt one of the potent contributing causes of the success and popularity of William T. Fenton has been his Celtic blood, for people of this strain are everywhere noted for their courage, fortitude, perseverance and pleasing personal traits. He grew to manhood on the home farm in Richardson county, where he assisted his father with the general work during crop seasons, when he became of proper age. In the winter time he attended the district schools. He remained at home until 1894, when he went to California and worked for a fruit company two years. He then returned to Nebraska and for two years operated a hardware and implement store in the village of Dawson, then sold out and engaged in general farming and stock raising, with very gratifying results, near there until 1906. In that year he was elected sheriff of Richardson county on the Democratic ticket, and he continued to discharge the duties of the office in a faithful, able and highly acceptable manner until 1913, when he resigned in order to assume the office of warden of the state penitentiary at Lincoln, in January of that year, having been appointed to this responsible position by Governor Morehead. He had made his home in Falls City for seven years, but early in 1913 moved to the city of Lincoln, where he has since resided, and has given eminent satisfaction to all concerned as warden. He understands his work thoroughly and has instituted many reforms and has everything about the prison under a superb system; in fact, it is said to be one of the best managed penitentiaries in the United States. Since he took charge he has kept the grounds and buildings in good repair and everything is in ship-shape at all times. He has established a large greenhouse and he has done much to better the general conditions of the prisoners. He is a man of tact, executive ability, prudence and caution; kind, but firm, and is always faithful in seeing that the laws and rules of the institution are strictly obeyed. He is popular with all his associates and is evidently the right man in the right place.

Mr. Fenton, in partnership with ex-Governor Morehead, owns a fine farm in Lancaster county, Nebraska, of two hundred and eighty acres. At one time he and his brother, the late Jerry P. Fenton, owned five drug stores in the city of Omaha.

On April 9, 1902, Mr. Fenton was married to Vinnette M. Colman, who was born at Falls City, where she grew to womanhood and was educated, being graduated from the high school there, and taught school for

some time at Falls City and at Dawson prior to her marriage. She is a daughter of Thomas and Anna (Ryan) Colman, who were early settlers in Richardson county. Mr. Colman, a veteran of the Civil War, was a harnessmaker by trade. His death occurred in Falls City in 1876 and his widow is now making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Fenton. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fenton, namely: Helen Ruth, born in 1903; and Bryan, 1905.

Mr. Fenton is a Democrat and has long been an influential worker in his party, as was also his father. The latter was elected representative to the Legislature from Richardson county in the early days here. Fraternally, the subject of this sketch is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Highlanders, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Knights of Columbus. He belongs to the Catholic church.

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### MARINO GIANNINI.

During the many years of his residence in Falls City there were few men there who were better known or who took a more active interest in the work of promoting the city's best interests than did the late Marino Giannini, a Virginian and a veteran of the Confederate Army, who came to this state from Missouri, in 1883, and engaged in the 'bus business at Falls City, where he spent the remainder of his life, one of the most influential citizens of that city, his death occurring there in the fall of 1915. Mr. Giannini became quite successful in his business affairs and left his family quite well circumstanced. His widow is still making her home at Falls City, where she is very comfortably situated.

Marino Giannini was born in the city of Richmond, Virginia, January 2, 1850, son and youngest of the thirteen children born to Marino and Mahala (Hamlet) Giannini, the former a native of Italy and the latter of Virginia. The senior Marino Giannini was born in Tuscany and in 1820 left his native Italy and came to the United States, landing at the port of New York, presently proceeding thence to Philadelphia and thence, after some time, to the city of Richmond, where he became a prosperous and wealthy merchant and shipper, an extensive slave owner and the owner of two large sailing vessels engaged in the overseas trade. During the Civil War these vessels were captured as blockade runners and were burned. It was not long after taking up his residence in Richmond that Marino



Giannini married Mahala Hamlet, who was born in that city, of English descent, and their children were reared in that city. The father of these children died just before the close of the Civil War, he then being sixty-three years of age, and his widow survived him for exactly nine years, her death occurring in Missouri on December 20, 1871, her youngest son, the subject of this memorial sketch, having provided for her a home at Milton, in Atchison county, that state.

The junior Marino Giannini was reared at Richmond and was given excellent educational advantages in his youth. When thirteen years of age he succeeded by a ruse in enlisting for service in the army of the Confederate States of America and served with that army for eighteen months, or until the close of the Civil War. Two of his elder brothers, Franklin P. and Ferdinand Washington Giannini, were serving in the army of Gen. Robert E. Lee and his youthful ardor sought service in the same army, but on account of his tender years he was unable to enlist at home; hence he slipped away and in company with a fifteen-year-old kinsman succeeded in getting into an Alabama regiment, serving until the close of the war as a member of Company C, Forty-sixth Regiment, Alabama Volunteer Infantry, and was afterward an active member of Camp Grace No. 472, United Confederate veterans. Too small to pass the mustering officers on an open field, young Marino stood on a stump underneath the window of the recruiting office and thus seemed to the eye of the officer in charge of proper size for army service and he was gladly accepted. He then eagerly signed the enlistment roll and as there was no outside objection raised he was retained in the ranks even after his patriotic subterfuge had been discovered by the officers and he made a good soldier.

Upon the completion of his military service Marino Giannini returned to his home at Richmond, only to find the family slaves gone and the family fortunes sadly reduced. His mother put him into Roanoke College and following his graduation there he traveled with an elder brother for some time in the South and later went to New York City, returning thence to Richmond, from which city, accompanied by his mother, he then came West and located at St. Joseph, Missouri, where he became engaged as a clerk in the Merchants Hotel. A year later he went to Milton, Missouri, where he made a home for his mother, and not long afterward returned to Richmond to receive his share of the family estate. With the fund thus secured he bought a farm in the vicinity of Milton, where his mother died in 1871. Shortly afterward, in February, 1872, he married

Edna Williams, who died in 1875, leaving two children, and in February, 1878, he married Linda Seymour, of Milton. In 1883 Mr. Giannini disposed of his interests in Missouri and came over into Nebraska, locating at Falls City, where he was engaged in the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad for six years, at the end of which time he bought the 'bus line in that city and for some time operated the same quite successfully; then selling it and buying the Werring creamery, which he operated for three years, after which he sold it and bought back the 'bus line, which he continued to operate for years thereafter. Mr. Giannini also made considerable investments in farm lands and city property, but when the "hard times" came on in the middle nineties he lost heavily and was compelled practically to begin all over again. He was again successful, however, and at the time of his death on September 27, 1915, was regarded as one of the well-to-do citizens of Falls City. Mr. Giannini was a Democrat and ever since becoming a resident of Falls City had taken an active part in political affairs, but always declined to accept the proffer of nomination to public office. He was one of the county seat's most active and progressive business men and his influence in the way of promoting civic improvements was for years one of the leading factors in the development of the town, the paving of streets and the creation of the "White Way" having been largely due to his insistent advocacy of such improvements. Mr. Giannini's father was a Catholic, but his mother was a Baptist and he and the other children of the family were reared in the latter faith. He afterward became a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, but during his residence in Falls City attended the Baptist church, of which his widow is a member. He was an active Mason and a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and was a member of several beneficiary orders, such as the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Royal Arcanum, the Legion of Honor and the Modern Woodmen, and took an earnest part in lodge work.

It was on February 28, 1878, that Marino Giannini was united in marriage to Linda Seymour, who was born at Milton, Missouri, September 26, 1858, a daughter of Leander and Elizabeth (Beck) Seymour, pioneers of that section of Missouri and both of whom are still living. Leander Seymour, a cousin of Horatio Seymour, twenty-fourth governor of New York and candidate for President of the United States against General Grant, was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, February 5, 1830, a son of John and Lovica (Eaton) Seymour, both members of old Colonial families, the



former of whom was a grandson of Dr. John Seymour, of Litchfield, Connecticut. John Seymour's father was a manufacturer of carriages and his son, Leander, acquired a very strong leaning toward the manufacturing arts, becoming an unusually skilled artisan. Though his main field of activity was that of a millwright, he was an expert in the field of mechanics and could make a watch, a sewing-machine or most any sort of a machine, and upon moving out to Missouri in pioneer days not only was active in the erection of mills, but made the first plows manufactured in northwestern Missouri, and has always been looked upon as a real genius in the mechanical arts. Though now long past the traditional "three-score-and-ten" stage of his life, Mr. Seymour retains to a remarkable degree his physical vigor and is still able to read without glasses. His wife, Elizabeth Beck, was born on March 31, 1838, and is descended from the Parsons and the Howells, of English descent and formerly large landowners at Salisbury, Raleigh and Berne, North Carolina. To Leander Seymour and wife six children were born, of whom Mrs. Giannini was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Franklin, who is at the old home in Missouri with his aged parents; Lydia, who married Andrew Jackson Carmen, a Civil War veteran from Ohio, and is now living at Downs, Kansas; Wilson, a well-to-do retired farmer, now living at Fairfax, Missouri; Leander, Jr., of Stewartsville, Missouri, and Mrs. Mary Simpson, of Hiawatha, Kansas.

By his first marriage Mr. Giannini was the father of two children, Mamie G., wife of John F. Martin, a traveling salesman, of Falls City, and Ferdinand W., a successful farmer living in the neighborhood of Barada, this county, who is married and has two children. By his marriage to Linda Seymour Mr. Giannini became the father of five children, namely: Eva, wife of William Robinson Holt, a well-known merchant of Falls City; Rufo Orden and Royal Byron, twins, now deceased; Laura G., wife of A. E. Speer, of Falls City, and Lloyd Seymour Giannini, of Fargo, North Dakota, who married Elizabeth Neal, daughter of George H. Neal, and has two children, Neal Marino and Isabel. Since her husband's death Mrs. Giannini has continued to make her home in Falls City, where she is very pleasantly situated. She is a member of the Baptist church, as noted above, and has for years taken an interested part in church work, as well as in the general good works and social and cultural activities of her home town. For more than fourteen years she has been one of the leading members of the Sorosis Club and is also a member of the locally influential Women's Club, in the affairs of both of which organizations she takes a warm interest.

## JOSEPH EDGAR MORRISON.

Joseph Edgar Morrison, one of the well-known and substantial farmers of Salem precinct, this county, the owner of the northwest quarter of section 25 of that precinct and the proprietor of one of the best farm plants in that part of the county, is a native of the neighboring state of Kansas, born in Brown county, that state, September 7, 1870, a son of Joseph and Lizzie (Shaffer) Morrison, pioneers of that county, whose last days were spent in this county, they having come here in 1881.

Joseph Morrison was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Louisville, Kentucky, April 1, 1829, a son of Robert Morrison, also a native of Kentucky, and his wife, Lizzie Shaffer, was born in Maryland in 1834. After their marriage they made their home in Illinois until the early sixties when they went to Wisconsin, remaining there until 1865, when they moved down into Kansas and settled in Brown county; but later moved to St. Joseph, Missouri, where they remained a couple of years, at the end of which time they moved over into western Kansas and remained there until the fall of 1881, when they came to Richardson county. Joseph Morrison bought a farm of eighty acres in this county and here he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, both dying in 1912. They were members of the Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eighth in order of birth and of whom six are still living.

Joseph E. Morrison received his schooling in the common schools and was reared to a life of farming. After his marriage, when twenty-one years of age, he began farming on his own account and in 1901 bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 25 of the precinct of Salem, this county, the northeast quarter of that section, and straightway began extensive improvements on the same, including the erection of a fine, modern eight-room house, with bathroom, hot and cold running water, electric lights and the like; admirable farm buildings and other improvements, creating there one of the best farm plants in that part of the county, and there he since has made his home. Mr. Morrison is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after office. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the local camp of the Modern Woodmen of America at Salem and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

On September 23, 1891, Joseph E. Morrison was united in marriage



to Linnie Eakins, who was born in Iowa on June 17, 1872, daughter of Thomas and Julia (Barnes) Eakins, natives, respectively, of Illinois and of Ohio, who settled in Brown county, Kansas, in 1879, later moving to Sabetha, where Thomas Eakins spent his last days. His widow is now living at Steele City, Kansas. Mrs. Morrison died in 1908. She was the mother of six children, namely: Mrs. Zelma Zellers, of Jefferson precinct, this county; Robert, who is farming near Shubert; Vera, who is at home with her father; Mabel, deceased; Warren, at home, and Vye, also at home.

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### WILLIAM MARTIN.

William Martin, extensive landowner in the states of Nebraska and South Dakota, is a native of Illinois, born in Aurora, that state, on October 8, 1854, and has been a resident of Richardson county since he was four years old. He holds a portion of his land in partnership with his sister, Catherine, the farms being located at various points. Five hundred and sixty acres are in Richardson county; six hundred and forty in Brown county, South Dakota; one hundred and sixty in Nemaha county, this state, and the homestead of one hundred and twenty, entered by William Martin, Sr., on October 30, 1858.

William Martin, Sr., was a native of Nova Scotia and was born of Irish parentage, who settled in Canada in an early day. William Martin emigrated from Nova Scotia to the United States in 1848, arriving at Chicago, and going thence to Aurora, Illinois, where he worked as a well digger for some time. In 1858 he drove to this part of the country with two yoke of oxen and two cows. He was accompanied by his wife, who before her marriage to Mr. Martin was Catherine Doyle, and three sons and three daughters. The long journey into Nebraska occupied one month, and on his arrival he pre-empted one hundred and twenty acres of land in Nemaha county. About nine years later his wife pre-empted forty acres. William Martin cleared his land and in due course had it ready for cultivation and continued the life of a farmer up to the time of his death in 1862, at the age of fifty-five years. William and Catherine (Doyle) Martin were the parents of six children, of whom William, the subject of this sketch, was the fifth in the order of birth, the others being James, who died in 1914 in Porter precinct; Mary, deceased; Catherine, born in 1845,

who housekeeps for her brother, William; John, out in the West, and Anna, who died at the age of two years.

William, James and Catherine Martin made their home together up to the time of the death of James, who died in 1914. They began on the home place, which contains one hundred and sixty acres and farmed that land on partnership terms. William Martin continued to add to his land holdings, paying a price per acre which varied from sixty-five dollars to one hundred and seventy-five dollars, which latter figure was the purchase price of the last tract bought just north of Humboldt. During his farming career Mr. Martin has bought upwards of two thousand acres of land and is regarded in the county as an excellent judge of land. He carried out extensive improvements on each of his holdings, and his last purchase is now considered to be worth two hundred and fifty dollars an acre. From small beginnings he has gradually increased his holdings and is now a prosperous farmer. Mr. Martin is a Republican, but has never sought public office. He holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America.

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### ISAAC W. HARRIS.

The late Isaac Harris, of Liberty precinct, was one of the real "old settlers" of Richardson county, having come to this county and made a settlement as early as 1873. During his career in this county he handled live stock on an extensive scale and became one of the most widely and favorably known men of southeastern Nebraska; honest and upright to a fault in all of his dealings, and was recognized as an expert judge of live stock. His interests in county affairs were wide and were of such a varied character as to indicate the broad-gauged citizenship of the man himself.

Isaac W. Harris was born in the old Buckeye state, on August 20, 1846, and was a son of Jacob Harris and Mary A. (Shurts) Harris, natives of New Jersey. He was reared to young manhood in his native state and migrated to Nebraska in 1873, settling on the land owned by his son Guy, in Liberty precinct. He early engaged in the cattle and live-stock business on an extensive scale, and, having faith in the eventual development of the country and confidence in the ultimate future of this section of Nebraska, he invested heavily in Richardson county land, accumulating over sixteen hundred acres of fine farming and grazing land. His skill as a live-stock judge and dealer was generally recognized and he was regarded



as having few equals in this part of the state when expert judgment of live-stock was required. His death occurred on November 30, 1915. General regret was felt throughout the community and wherever he was known at the loss sustained by his departure from this earthly realm.

Isaac Harris's activities were not restricted to his agricultural interests and in many other ways he gave evidence of commercial enterprise. He helped to organize the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company and was president of that company at the time of his death. He was a stockholder in the State Bank of Stella and in the Bank of Shubert, and was also interested financially in the State Bank of Humboldt and in the State Bank of Omaha. For a considerable period he was vice-president of the Stella Bank and a director of the other three banks in which he was interested, and in all of these undertakings took a keen interest and brought a ripe experience to bear in shaping the policy of the banks with which he was identified.

Isaac Harris was married in Illinois, in 1869, to Rosa Hassler, who was born in Bureau county, Illinois, on January 29, 1849. She preceded her husband to the grave by about ten months, her death occurring on January 28, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Harris were ever helpful in all neighborhood good works and in all efforts making for the good of the people among whom they had so long resided. The following children were born to Isaac and Rosa Harris, namely: Mrs. Caroline Clark, of Stella, this county; George W., who lives in Yakima, Washington; Bert L., also living in Yakima; Guy, who is farming in this county; Olive and Lucile J., living with their brother Guy on the home place.

Guy Harris was reared on his father's farm, having been born on March 22, 1876. He was graduated from the Stella high school and later attended the State Normal at Peru, this state. At the age of eighteen he began to work for himself and put out a crop of wheat and corn. He sold the wheat for seventy-five cents a bushel and the corn at fourteen cents, and with the proceeds paid his way through school. For some years afterward he was in partnership with his father and brother Bert, and thus continued until 1905, when Guy Harris took over his brother's interest in the farm. At the death of his father, he acquired the home place of two hundred and ninety acres and has since bought other land. He is the owner of eight hundred acres of land, the home place in section 6; one hundred and sixty acres in the southeast corner of section 1, Grant precinct; one hundred and sixty acres in the southeast quarter of section 9, Porter precinct,

and across the international border in Alberta, Canada, he is the owner of eight hundred acres of land. In addition to his extensive land holdings, Mr. Harris is heavily interested in hog and cattle raising. He feeds on an average about one thousand hogs annually and in some years has fed up to five hundred head of cattle, and is generally recognized as one of the most prosperous farmers and stockmen in this part of the state. His sisters, Olive and Lucile, are partners with him in all his farming operations.

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### WILLIAM C. MARGRAVE.

William C. Margrave, president of the William A. Margrave Company, one of the leading ranch corporations in eastern Nebraska, the company's extensive corporate holdings comprising the estate of the late William A. Margrave, who for years was one of the best-known ranchmen in this part of Nebraska, or in the adjoining section of Kansas, was born in the neighboring county of Brown, in Kansas, and has lived in this part of the country all his life. He was born on June 27, 1876, son of William A. and Margaret R. (Rubeti) Margrave, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Kansas, and the latter of whom is still living, now a resident of Hiawatha, Kansas.

William A. Margrave, founder of the great Margrave estate, now being operated by his heirs under the corporate title of the William A. Margrave Company, with headquarters at Preston, this county, was born on a farm in the vicinity of the city of Peoria, Illinois, May 1, 1845, and was fifteen years of age when he came out into this part of the country with his parents, James W. and Elizabeth (Hopkins) Margrave, from Illinois in 1860, the family settling at Hiawatha, Kansas, where James W. Margrave became a farmer and miller, and where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in 1888. He was born in the state of Kentucky on August 16, 1814. His widow survived him about four years, her death occurring on May 21, 1892. They were the parents of eight children, of whom William A. was the fourth in order of birth.

As noted above, William A. Margrave was about fifteen years of age when he came to this part of the country with his parents, in 1860, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Richardson county, becoming thoroughly familiar with pioneer conditions hereabout. He early began operating on his own account and from the first his operations were suc-



cessful, early becoming recognized as one of the most successful traders in land and cattle in this section. After his marriage he established his home on his ranch in the vicinity of Preston, this county, and gradually enlarged his holdings until he became the owner of several thousand acres of land covering that section and reaching down to Reserve, besides lands in Sheridan and Cherry counties, this state, and was one of the most extensive dealers in and graziers of cattle, horses and mules in this part of the country. William A. Margrave died on July 31, 1906, and his widow survives him, now a resident of Hiawatha, Kansas. She was born, Margaret R. Rubeti, in the neighboring county of Doniphan, Kansas, in 1848, and at the age of three years was left an orphan. She was reared in the household of S. M. Irvin and in time became a teacher on the Indian reservation, and was thus engaged at the time she married Mr. Margrave. To that union were born five children, one of whom, a daughter, died in infancy, the others being Julia, wife of George W. LeClere, storekeeper on the Margrave ranch in Jefferson precinct; William C., the subject of this biographical sketch; James T., of Preston, vice-president of the Margrave corporation, and Earl I., of Gordon, secretary and treasurer of the corporation. After the death of William A. Margrave his sons continued to operate the ranch property, their aim being to carry out their father's plans with regard to the estate as closely as possible, and with that end in view presently incorporated the business under the name of the William A. Margrave Company and have since been conducting the business under that corporate style, the officers being as above named, the subject of this sketch being the president of the company. The local station of the Margrave Company in Jefferson precinct, this county, carries a thousand head of cattle and on the ranches in Sheridan and Cherry counties there are two thousand head or more.

William C. Margrave received his schooling in the old Indian school on the reservation, in the school in Lost Creek district, in the public school at Reserve and in Hiawatha Academy and early began his active connection with his father's extensive and growing ranch activities, as the eldest son proving a valuable factor in the development of the great property of which he is now the general manager and with the development of which he has been actively identified since he was twenty years of age. In addition to his interest in the family corporation Mr. Margrave is a member of the board of directors of the Morrell & Jones Bank at Hiawatha, and is the owner of two hundred and sixty acres of land in Kansas, eighty acres of which is an allotment from the government, through his mother's claim

on the reservation lands. Mr. Margrave is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has not been an office seeker. In 1916 he erected a fine new, modern residence of twelve rooms, with hot and cold running water in the same, the house being electrically lighted from a private power plant on the place, and he and his family are very comfortably situated.

Mr. Margrave has been twice married. In 1897, when twenty-one years of age, he was united in marriage to Mary Waller, who also was born in Brown county, Kansas, daughter of Cornelius and Martha Waller, natives of Kentucky, who settled in Kansas about 1857, and to this union three children were born, Howard, who is in high school at Hiawatha, and Julia and Martha, at home. The mother of these children died on April 28, 1908, at the age of thirty-one years, and on June 1, 1910, Mr. Margrave married Ida Pribbeno, who was born in this county on September 15, 1886, daughter of C. F. Pribbeno, a member of one of the old families of Richardson county and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union two children have been born, Helen and William A. Mr. and Mrs. Margrave are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Preston and Mr. Margrave is one of the trustees of the same.

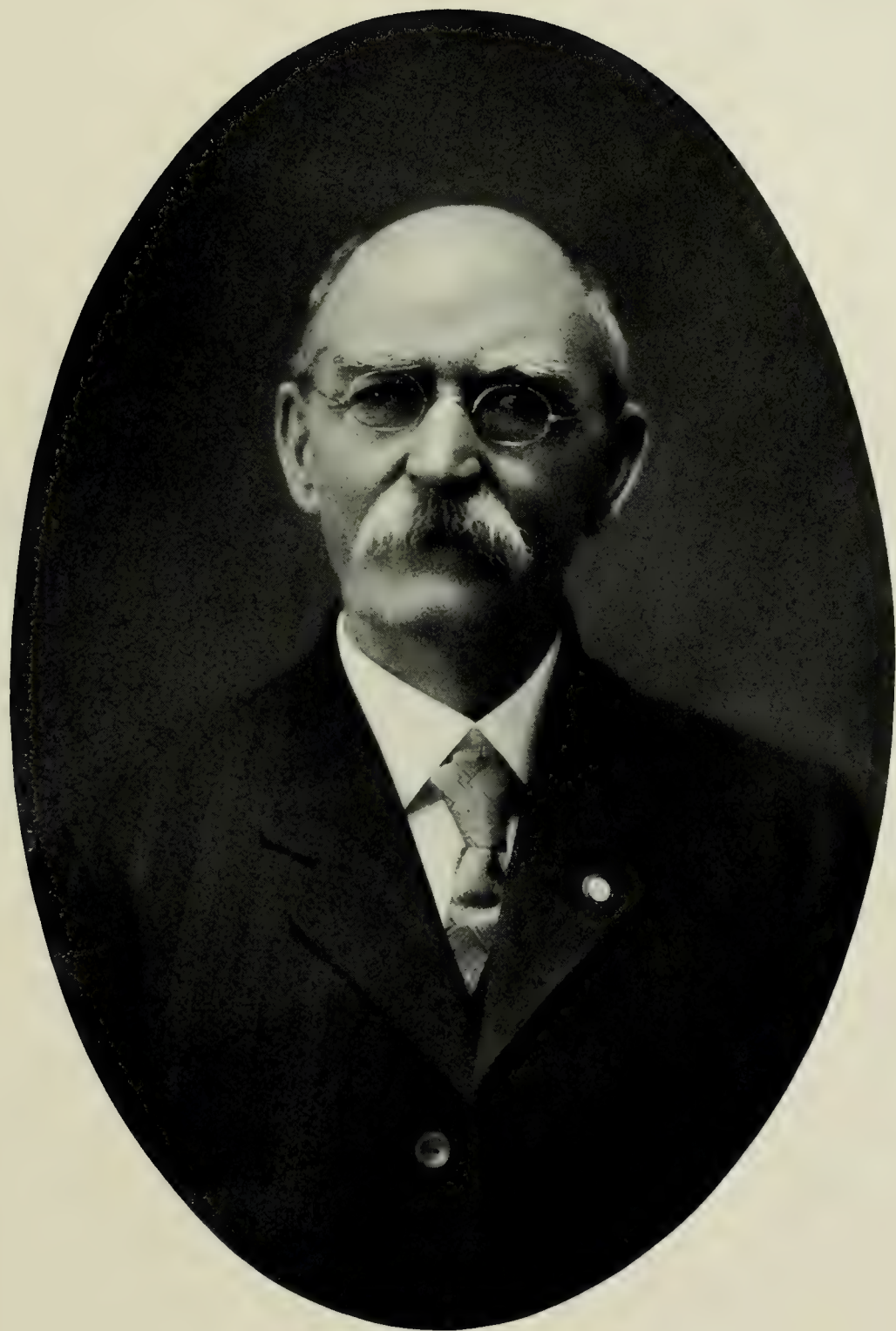
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### JOSEPH W. CULLEN.

One of the well-known and loyal citizens of Richardson county is Joseph W. Cullen, of Verdon, now living in retirement after a long and successful career as a general farmer. He was born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, April 3, 1840, a son of George and Susan (Allen) Cullen. The father was of Scotch descent and probably was born in Scotland. He spent his earlier years in Pennsylvania, moving to White county, Indiana, in 1852, where he established his permanent home on a farm. He was born in 1804 and died in 1882. His wife died about 1848, at the age of forty-five years. To these parents nine children were born, all now deceased but the subject of this sketch, who was fourth in order of birth.

Joseph W. Cullen spent his childhood in Pennsylvania, being twelve years old when his parents moved to White county, Indiana. He attended the old-time district schools and worked on the farm when a boy. He remained in Indiana until the breaking out of the Civil War. On June 4, 1861, he enlisted in the Twentieth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry,





JOSEPH W. CULLEN.





and saw considerable hard service in the South, taking part in numerous engagements in Virginia, North Carolina and other states, among them being Hatteras Island, North Carolina, his first engagement. After this battle he was encamped near Fortress Monroe. His regiment witnessed the great battle between the "Monitor" and the "Merrimac" at Newport News, following the sinking of the "Cumberland," and the "Congress." His regiment then went to Norfolk and then joined McClellan's army at White House Landing on York river; thence to within six miles of Richmond, where they dug trenches and cut timber for barricades; took part in a skirmish on June 25, 1862; captured a fort, but being unsupported, retired again, the regiment losing very heavily. They then took part in the Seven Days Battle and Harrison's Landing engagement; next the Peninsular campaign; next to Manassas Junction; from Rappahannock by forced march, thence to Centerville; witnessed great disorganization of the army; retreated and fought at Chantilly. General Kearney was killed there, Gen. Robt. E. Lee sending the body of General Kearney to the Union lines under a flag of truce, and presented Kearney's horse to his widow. The regiment then retreated to Alexandria; thence to Washington; served in Virginia until marched through Maryland to Gettysburg, July 1, 1863. Engagements: Glendale, June 30, 1862; Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862; second Battle of Bull Run; Chantilly, Waterloo, Fredericksburg, Cedarville, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wapping Heights; suppressed July riots in New York City in 1863; Orange Grove, Mine Run, November 29, 1863; Petersburg, Virginia, and the Battle of the Wilderness. Mr. Cullen was honorably discharged at Indianapolis, Indiana, July 24, 1864. After his career in the army he resumed farming in Indiana, where he remained until 1868, when he came to Nebraska and bought a farm where the town of Auburn now stands, in Nemaha county. In 1870 he came to Richardson county and bought one hundred and sixty acres of raw land in Muddy precinct, which he broke himself and made general improvements. He set out five acres of orchard and a grove of cottonwood trees, which however, finally died, and he then planted two acres of walnut trees which are thriving. He erected a pleasant home and convenient out-buildings. The farm is well located, two miles north of Verdon. He sold it some time ago and is now living retired from active life. He is owner of a half block of city property in Verdon, and is a shareholder in the Farmers and Merchants Bank there. While on the farm he made a specialty of handling high-grade live stock, and was a well-known breeder.

Mr. Cullen has been twice married, first, in December, 1865, to Mary Jane Hickman, who was born in Ohio. Her death occurred in 1888. Eleven

children were born to that union, namely: Mrs. Rosa Belle Vanderventer, who lives in Long Mount, Colorado; Earl, deceased; Ferdinand, who lives in Holt county, Nebraska; William T., who lives in Idaho; George M., who also lives in Idaho; Ethel E., wife of T. Griffiths, of Greenleaf, Idaho; Ernest E., deceased; Herbert L., who lives in western Nebraska; Oliver J., deceased; Walter F., who lives at Page, in Holt county, Nebraska, and Bertha, deceased. On December 18, 1892, Mr. Cullen married Mrs. Ella Jane (Stephenson) McClain, a native of Missouri, and to their union one child was born, Edith M., wife of Guy Schley, of Verdon.

Politically, Mr. Cullen is a Democrat. He was formerly a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was commander of the local post until the charter was surrendered. It was known as the George Vanderventer Post. He belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and to the Congregational church.

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#### CLEON PECK.

Cleon Peck, assessor of the precinct of Ohio and one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of that part of Richardson county, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life, having been born on the farm, a part of which he now owns, in Ohio precinct, October 2, 1881, son of George W. and Sarah (Maust) Peck, natives of Pennsylvania, who became pioneers of Richardson county and the latter of which is still living here one of the best-known and most highly esteemed pioneers of the precinct of Ohio.

George W. Peck was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, May 16, 1841, a son of Elias Peck, who also became a pioneer of Richardson county, and was reared in that county. He was united in marriage in Pennsylvania to Sarah Maust, who also was born in that state on August 4, 1844, and in the fall of 1869 he came out to Nebraska and bought a farm in the precinct of Ohio, in this county, made arrangements for the erection of a house on that tract and then returned to Pennsylvania for his family and came back here, establishing his home on his farm, where he continued to make his home until the spring of 1906, when he retired from the farm and moved to Falls City. His death occurred on September 13, of that same year. George W. Peck became a successful farmer and stockman and he and his wife gave their children every advantage in the way of schooling, both being ardent advocates of higher education. Mr. Peck was a Republi-



can and for four years served as a member of the board of county commissioners from his district. He was a member of the Church of the Brethren, and gave material assistance to the erection of the church of that denomination in his home precinct. His widow is still living in this county. They were the parents of ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the ninth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Felicia, deceased; Mrs. Margaret Miller, of Waterloo, Iowa; Elias, a farmer, of Ohio precinct; Milton, who died in infancy; Lloyd, now a resident of Reserve, Kansas; Mrs. Lorena Humbarger of Falls City; Charles, who died in infancy; Elsie, wife of Judge John Wiltse, of Falls City, and Mrs. Edith Kindig, of Holmesville, this state.

Reared on the home farm, Cleon Peck received his early schooling in the district schools in the neighborhood of his home and supplemented the same by a course in McPherson College, in which institution practically all of the Peck children finished their schooling, all becoming school teachers with the exception of the subject of this sketch and his youngest sister. Cleon Peck passed the examination for teachers and received a certificate to teach, but never used it. A year after his return from college he became a partner of his father in the operation of the home farm and, in 1912, bought from his mother the eighty-acre tract of the old home place on which he is now living, at the same time farming one hundred and sixty acres of the home place. Mr. Peck is a progressive and up-to-date farmer and is doing very well in his operations. He is a member of the Farmers Union and of the C. P. A., in the affairs of which he takes an active interest. By political inheritance and on national issues Mr. Peck is a Republican, but on local issues reserves his right to an independent vote. In 1916 he was elected assessor of the precinct of Ohio and is now serving in that important public capacity, giving to the duties of that office his most intelligent attention.

On January 22, 1908, Cleon Peck was united in marriage to Ella Way, who was born in this county on November 12, 1883, but was reared in Thayer county, this state, a daughter of Henry and Clara (Daniels) Way, natives, respectively, of Ohio and Kansas, who are now living in Thayer county, this state, where Mr. Way is a large landowner. Henry Way came to Nebraska from Illinois, and was here married to Clara Daniels, who was born in Kansas, but who lived in Illinois until she was thirteen years of age, when she returned to Kansas. After his marriage Henry Way made his home in this county until 1884, when he moved to Thayer county, where he has developed large farming interests. Mr. and Mrs. Peck have two

children, Glenn, born on February 17, 1909, and Eugene, October 5, 1911. They have a very pleasant home and have ever given their interested attention to the general social activities of their home community.

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### WILLIAM S. MARSH.

William S. Marsh, one of the best-known pioneer farmers of the precinct of East Muddy, this county, an old plainsman and an honored veteran of the Civil War, now living practically retired, is a native of the Badger state, but has been a resident of Nebraska since territorial days, having come to this county with his parents in 1859, he then having been but a boy of fourteen years. He was born on a pioneer farm in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, February 11, 1845, son of Elijah S. and Delilah (Horner) Marsh, natives of Ohio, the former born in 1821 and the latter in 1825, who were married in that state and later became pioneers of Lafayette county, Wisconsin, living there until 1850, when they moved to Saline county, Missouri, living there eight years, and then settled near Rockport, Atchison county, Missouri, where they remained until in March, 1859, when they came over into the then Territory of Nebraska and settled on Long Branch, north of Humboldt, in this county. Six months later Elijah S. Marsh bought a farm adjoining the Stephens place in the precinct of Barada and there established his home and became a substantial farmer and stockman. When the Civil War broke out Elijah S. Marsh enlisted in behalf of the Union as a member of Company D, Fifth Missouri Cavalry, and with that command served for eighteen months. He lived to be past eighty years of age and died at Lincoln, this state, while on his way to Iowa on a visit, his death occurring on June 27, 1902. His wife had preceded him to the grave less than a year, her death having occurred at her home in this county on August 9, 1901. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: James S., who also was a veteran of the Civil War, having served as a member of Company K, Forty-eighth Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry; John T., who is living with a son of W. S. Marsh on the old home farm in the precinct of Barada; George W., now a resident of University Place, near Lincoln, this state; Alcana, who married C. F. Peabody and is now living in the state of Washington; Hiram, whose last days were spent in Saline county, Missouri; Joseph, who died in 1876 and is buried in the Barada





MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM S. MARSH.





cemetery; Richard L., who is living on the farm adjoining that of his brother, William S., on the north; Mrs. Lucinda Davis, deceased; Mrs. Emma Boatman, of Nemaha county, this state, and Mrs. Margaret Chamberlain, of Eugene, Oregon.

As noted above, William S. Marsh was but fourteen years of age when he came to Richardson county with his parents from Wisconsin and his youth was spent on the home farm in Barada precinct, growing up there thoroughly familiar with pioneer conditions. On March 7, 1862, he then being less than a month past seventeen years of age, he enlisted his services in behalf of the Union and went to the front as a member of Company D, Fifth Missouri Cavalry, with which command he served for eighteen months, being chiefly engaged in chasing "bushwhackers," his most important engagement during his cavalry service having been that of the battle of the Charitan river. He then on August 15, 1864, enlisted as a member of Company K, Forty-eighth Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry, and with that command served until the close of the war, the principal part of that service being rendered in Missouri and Tennessee. Upon the completion of his military service he returned home and in the fall of 1865 took service with a freighting outfit and for two years was engaged as a freighter across the plains to Julesburg and Ft. Kearney, his brothers James and John also being thus engaged. Upon leaving the plains Mr. Marsh resumed his place on the home farm and in 1868 bought the farm of eighty acres on which he is now living, in the precinct of East Muddy, and proceeded to develop and improve the same, establishing his home there after his marriage in the fall of 1870, and has ever since continued to make that place his home, now living practically retired from the active labors of the farm. Mr. Marsh is an ardent Republican and has ever given his earnest attention to local civic affairs, for twenty years serving as director of his home school district. He is an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Shubert, in the affairs of which patriotic organization he has for years taken a warm interest, and is also affiliated with the local lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen at that place.

On November 20, 1870, William S. Marsh was united in marriage to Lillie Calvert, who then lived on the farm adjoining the Marsh place in the precinct of Barada and who was born at Hiramburg, Ohio, April 4, 1853, a daughter of Hiram and Rachel (Frazier) Calvert, natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in 1804 and the latter in 1816, who became pioneers of Richardson county and here spent their last days. Hiram Calvert, after whom the town of Hiramburg, Ohio, was named, was a descendant of the

famous Cecil Calvert (Lord Baltimore), of Maryland. In 1864 he came to this county with his family from Ohio and settled on a farm adjoining the Marsh place in Barada precinct, where his wife died three years later, in 1867. He survived until 1891. They were the parents of two children, Mrs. Marsh having a brother, William Calvert, now a resident of Gold Hill, Nevada. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh have four children, namely: Ora O. Marsh, present county clerk of Richardson county and a resident of Falls City; William Earl Marsh, who is farming the old Marsh homestead place in Barada precinct; Mrs. Josephine Ray, whose husband, Elmer Ray, is now operating Mr. Marsh's farm, and who has four children, Gladys, Russell, Helen and Warren, and George Roy, now a resident of Lewistown, Montana. The Marshs have a very pleasant home north of Verdon and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in many ways in promoting causes having to do with the advancement of the common good thereabout.

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#### LOUIS. M. SUESS.

Louis M. Suess, one of the substantial farmers and landowners of the precinct of Arago, this county, and former justice of the peace of that precinct, was born on a pioneer farm in that precinct and has lived there all his life, his present home being not far from the place of his birth. He was born on June 8, 1866, son of August and Catherine (Werner) Suess, pioneers of Richardson county, and the former of whom is still living here, now a resident of Falls City.

August Suess was born in the village of Graben, near the city of Karlsruhe, capital of the grand duchy of Baden, and grew to manhood there, learning the trade of tailor. In 1857 he came to this country and after spending a short time at Chicago came West, in 1860, and for some time thereafter was engaged as a farm hand in Holt county, Missouri, presently coming across the river and buying a tract of land, a quarter of a section, in the precinct of Arago, in this county, for which he paid nine hundred dollars. In 1861 he married Katrina M. Werner, also a native of Baden, born in the village of Graben, and who was a daughter of one of the earliest settlers in this section, and after his marriage established his home in the old village of Arago, going across the river to Corning to work. A year later he moved onto his farm and proceeded to break the soil with



an ox-team, presently getting the place under cultivation. It was about 1861 that August Suess bought that pioneer farm and he lived there until his retirement from the farm many years later and removal to Falls City, where he is now living at the age of eighty years. His wife died in 1907, she then being fifty-seven years of age. They were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being Philip E., born in 1862, now living at Centerville, Kansas; August, born in 1864, who died in that same year; Henry, born in 1868, died in that same year; Mrs. Louise K. Poitner, born in 1880, now deceased, and Mrs. Mary Daeschner, of Falls City, born in 1873. August Suess took an active part in the development of his section of the county in pioneer days and during and after the Civil War period served as a member of the local militia. He was a good farmer and became a substantial landowner.

Louis M. Suess was reared on the farm on which he was born, received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and became a practical farmer. Until his marriage, in the spring of 1890, Mr. Suess remained on the home farm and after his marriage he rented a farm and began farming on his own account, becoming quite successful in his operations. He later bought a bit of land, afterward inherited another piece of land and in 1916 bought from Ernest Smechel the farm on which he is now living in section 31 of Arago precinct and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. He is now the owner of two hundred and sixty acres, owning land also in sections 10 and 16 of that same precinct. Mr. Suess is a Republican and has, even from the days of his boyhood given his earnest attention to local political affairs. For two years he served as assessor for his home precinct, for three years was justice of the peace in and for that precinct and has also served as a member of the school board, to the duties of these several public offices ever giving his faithful and intelligent attention.

On April 8, 1890, Louis M. Suess was united in marriage to Julia Schindler, who was born in western Missouri in July, 1866, a daughter of John and Zelia (Velenia) Schindler, natives, respectively, of Germany and of Switzerland, who were the parents of five children, one son and four daughters. Years ago John Schindler left Missouri and went West, where he spent his last days. His widow is still living, now a resident of Omaha, this state. Her son, Conrad H. Schindler, is a farmer in Ohio precinct, this county. To Louis M. and Julia (Schindler) Suess have been born

three sons, August, Paul and Ernest, who are helping in the direction of their father's farm lands. The family are members of the German Evangelical Lutheran church and have ever given proper attention to church work, as well as to other neighborhood good works and the general social activities of their home community.

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### LEROY T. PETERSEN, M. D.

One of the most successful of the younger physicians of Richardson county, is Dr. Leroy T. Petersen, of Humboldt, who, knowing at the outset that success in medicine, one of the most exacting of the professions, was to be gained only by close application and untiring perseverance, has left no stone unturned whereby he might become properly equipped for efficiency in his chosen life work. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska, February 15, 1885. He is a son of Soren T. and Margaret Petersen, natives of Denmark and Germany, respectively. The father emigrated to the United States in 1868, establishing his home in the city of Omaha, where he dealt successfully in real-estate business. His death occurred there in 1912. His widow is now living with her daughter in Portland, Oregon. The Petersen family moved to Oregon in 1894, and there they continued to reside until in 1907, when they moved back to Nebraska.

Leroy T. Petersen spent his early boyhood in Omaha, where he attended the public schools. After going to the Pacific coast he studied in the University of Oregon, at Eugene, for two years. Then the family moved to McMinnville, Oregon, and there he continued his studies in the academy, also studied at the McMinnville College, from which institution he was graduated with the Degree of Bachelor of Science in 1906. Upon returning to Omaha, the following year, he began his medical course in Creighton University, where he made an excellent record and was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1912. After practicing his profession in Omaha a short time he decided to further equip himself for his professional duties before settling down to permanent practice; consequently he went to Europe in 1913, making a tour of the continent and studying at the medical clinics at Vienna and other cities, being under some of the most eminent medical authorities of the world. Returning to Nebraska in December, 1913, he located at Humboldt, where he has since engaged in general practice. He succeeded from the start and now enjoys a large



and lucrative patronage and stands high in the medical profession of southeastern Nebraska. He has remained a close student of all that pertains to his profession and therefore keeps well abreast of the times.

Doctor Peterson was married in May, 1913, to Emma Kretzschmar, of Omaha, where she was reared and educated. To this union a son has been born, Leroy T., Jr., whose birth occurred on March 29, 1915. Doctor Petersen is a Republican. He belongs to the American Medical Association, the Nebraska State Medical Society and the Richardson County Medical Society and is also a member of the local lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias, the Woodmen of the World and the Knights and Ladies of Security.

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### EDWARD W. CUMMINGS.

Edward W. Cummings, one of the substantial and progressive farmers of Richardson county and the owner of a fine place in the precinct of Grant, is a native son of Nebraska and has lived in this state all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm over in the adjoining county of Pawnee on October 25, 1872, son of Patrick and Nora (Fenton) Cummings, natives of Ireland and pioneers of this section, and the latter of whom is still living.

Patrick Cummings, who was born in 1844, was but a lad of fifteen when he came to this country and settled in Vermont. There he grew to manhood, remaining there until he was about twenty-three years of age, when, in 1867, he came to the new state of Nebraska, this state having been admitted to the Union in that year, and settled in Pawnee county. After coming out here he married Nora Fenton, who also was born in Ireland, in 1837, and who had come to this country with her mother when a girl, the family first locating in Connecticut, whence they came to Nebraska and became pioneers of this section of the state. After his marriage Patrick Cummings established his home on a farm in Pawnee county and there developed a fine bit of property. On that farm he spent his last days, his death occurring there in 1890. His widow still survives. They were the parents of five children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, T. P. Cummings, of Dawson, this county, and a sister, Mrs. Catherine Walsh, of Pierre, South Dakota.

Edward Cummings was reared on the home farm in Pawnee county, growing up there familiar with pioneer conditions on the plains, and received

his early schooling in the district schools of that neighborhood, supplementing the same by attendance at St. Mary's College for three terms. From the days of his boyhood he was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home farm and has always been a farmer. He became the owner of his first farm in 1897, the year of his marriage, he then being twenty-four years of age, and continued a resident of Pawnee county, farming his place there, until 1905, when he sold that farm and moved over into Richardson county and bought his present farm in the precinct of Grant, where he has since made his home and where he and his family are very pleasantly and very comfortably situated. In addition to the well-improved quarter section on which he makes his home, Mr. Cummings is the owner of another farm, a tract of one hundred and eighty acres, in the Nemaha bottoms south of Dawson, and is recognized as one of the well-to-do farmers of the Dawson neighborhood. He is a Republican, but in local elections is inclined to take an independent view of the issues involved, reserving his right to vote for the man instead of the party.

On September 8, 1897, Edward W. Cummings was united in marriage to Nora Clancy, who was born in Jewell county, Kansas, January 17, 1878, daughter of Patrick and Johanna (O'Brien) Clancy, natives of Ireland and early settlers in Kansas, who later came over the line into Nebraska and settled in this county, where their last days were spent. Patrick Clancy was born in 1840 and Johanna O'Brien was born in 1841. With their respective parents they came to this country in the days of their childhood and were reared in New Jersey, where they were married. In 1875 they came West and settled in Jewell county, Kansas, where they remained until in February, 1878, when they came up into Nebraska and located on a farm in the precinct of Grant, in this county, where they prospered and where they reared their family, remaining there the rest of their lives. Mrs. Clancy died in 1904 and Mr. Clancy survived until February, 1913. They were the parents of five children, those besides Mrs. Cummings being as follow: Mrs. Margaret Zimmerman, of Lincoln, this state; Mary, wife of James O'Grady, of Grant precinct, this county; Johanna, wife of John O'Grady, of that same precinct, and Mrs. Kate O'Connell, wife of Bryan O'Connell, of that same precinct.

To Edward W. and Nora (Clancy) Cummings one child has been born, a son, Patrick, who died on October 3, 1915, at the age of fifteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Cummings are members of the Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs, as well as in the general social activities



and good works of the community in which they live. Mr. Cummings is a member of the Dawson council of the Knights of Columbus and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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### BRYAN O'CONNELL.

Bryan O'Connell, substantial and prosperous stockman and farmer, owner of two hundred and ten acres of prime land in section 21, Grant township, was born at Chicago, Illinois, on March 11, 1866. He is the son of Michael and Margaret (Maloney) O'Connell, natives of Ireland, born in County Clare, that country, the former in 1825.

Michael O'Connell left the Emerald Isle when he was about twenty-one years old and on arriving in the United States, went on to Chicago, where he lived up to about 1865. In the latter year he moved to Wisconsin, where he resided until 1875, in which year he came to Richardson county. His first purchase of land in this state was a tract of one hundred and sixty acres near Shubert. The nearest market places to his farm were Falls City and Brownville. In common with other early settlers he suffered from the ravages of the grasshopper plague. After these pests had winged their final flight, his farming operations prospered and he gradually added to his land holdings, owning for some years before his retirement four hundred and forty acres of choice land. To Michael and Margaret (Maloney) O'Connell eight children were born, three of whom died in infancy, the others being Patrick, deceased; Thomas, who lives in Greeley county, this state; Bryan, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Margaret Hanley, a widow, living in Sioux county, this state; Mary Ann, who married J. Ahern, lives in Shubert, and Mrs. Sarah Ramsey, living in Greeley county. Mr. O'Connell retired about twenty years ago from the active labors of the farm and moved to Spaulding, this state, where he is now living with his children at the advanced age of ninety-two years. His wife, whom he married at Buffalo, New York, died in 1904, having reached her seventy-eighth year. She was a member of the Catholic church, as is her husband, and their children were reared in the same faith.

Bryan O'Connell, the subject of this sketch, was nine years old when his parents came to Nebraska from Wisconsin. He attended the district and public schools at Shubert. After leaving school he helped his father with the work on the farm and when he was twenty-six years old he rented

land from his father, who later gave him eighty acres. This tract he improved and farmed for five years, at the end of which time he sold out and bought his present farm of two hundred and ten acres in Grant township, which was all improved, and here he is engaged successfully in general farming and stock raising. He has built a cattle barn and feeds cattle and hogs during the winter season.

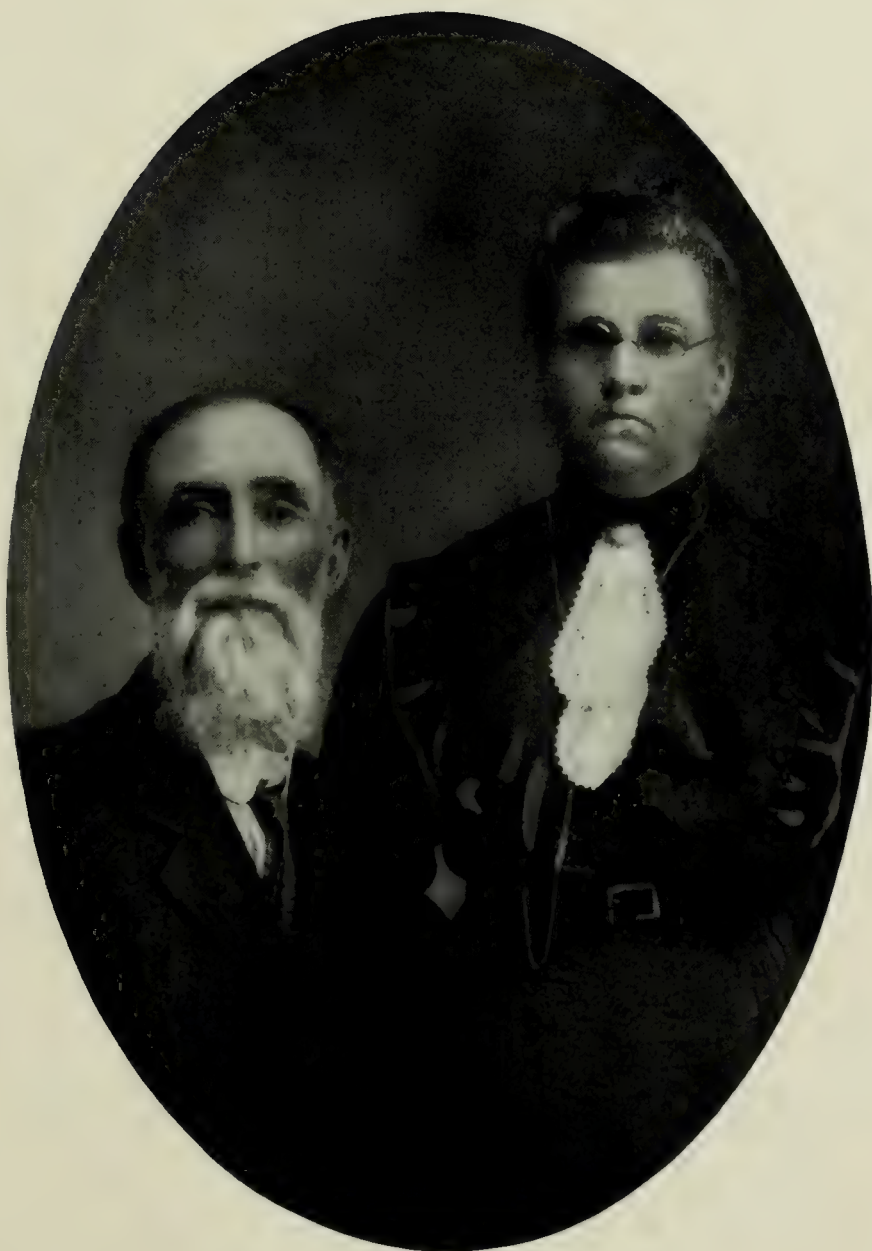
On November 26, 1894, Bryan O'Connell was united in marriage to Katherine Clancy, who was born in Jewell county, Kansas, daughter of Patrick and Johanna (O'Brien) Clancy, natives of County Tipperary, Ireland, who were married at Salem, New Jersey, and later went to Kansas and then to Nebraska, where they continued to reside up to the time of their deaths. To Mr. and Mrs. Bryan O'Connell four children have been born, namely: Marguerite, a graduate of the Convent of the Immaculate Conception at Hastings, this state, and now teaching in school district No. 20; Patrick, now attending Dawson high school, and Josephine, who attends the convent school at Dawson, and Michael, at home with their parents. Mr. O'Connell and his wife and children are members of the Catholic church. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

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#### CLYDE V. LUM.

Clyde V. Lum, is one of the successful lumber dealers of southeastern Nebraska. He was born on August 28, 1877, near Perry, in Boone county, Iowa, and is a son of George and Laura (Shepard) Lum. George Lum was born in Oswego county, New York, October 15, 1836, a son of Ransom Gehiel and Chloe (Abbott) Lum, natives of New York. He devoted his active life to farming and business. When a young man, in 1854, he went to Iowa with his two brothers and settled in Boone county. During the Civil War he enlisted in Company D, Second Iowa Cavalry, seeing much hard service and taking part in a number of important campaigns in the South. At the close of the war he was honorably discharged, having been in the service three years and three months. After the war he returned to Iowa and there continued farming until August, 1880, when he came to Nebraska, locating in Liberty precinct, Richardson county, and soon thereafter began dealing in lumber at Verdon, continuing in that business alone until 1903 when his son, Clyde V. Lum, was admitted to partnership, and they built up a large and satisfactory business. The elder Lum





MR. AND MRS. GEORGE LUM.





was a charter member of the local lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He helped organize and start the Verdon roller mills, and continued in business there until his death, which occurred on February 24, 1914. He was one of the influential men of his community.

George Lum was married in Iowa, December 17, 1865, to Laura E. Shepard, who was born in Geneseo, Livingston county, New York, November 11, 1848, a daughter of Chauncey K. and Laura (Bristol) Shepard, natives of Connecticut and Indiana, respectively. Chauncey K. Shepard died in New York in 1853, and his widow and children removed to Michigan and thence to Iowa. Mrs. Shepard came to Nebraska with Mr. and Mrs. Lum and died here in 1895. Mrs. Lum is still living at her old home in Verdon. Her father, Chauncey K. Shepard, was born in 1804 and her mother was born in 1811, a daughter of Norton and Nancy (Stevens) Bristol, the former born in 1786 and the latter in 1784, who were married in 1808. Norton Bristol was a son of Abel Bristol, who was a son of Aaron Bristol, who was a son of Eliphalet Bristol and wife, Esther Peck. Eliphalet Bristol was born in 1679 and died in 1757. Abel Bristol was a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War, a private in one of the New York regiments, under Capt. Elijah Bostwick. To George Lum and wife five children were born, namely: Fred, deceased; Gertrude, who lives in Verdon with her mother; Clyde V., the subject of this sketch; Harry, who is also at home in Verdon, and Roy, who resides in Dodge City, Kansas.

Clyde V. Lum was reared on the home farm in Liberty precinct, and received a common-school education at Verdon. He later studied at Doane College at Crete, Nebraska, and also took a course in the Gem City Business College at Quincy, Illinois. Thus well equipped for a commercial career he began working in his father's lumber yard at Verdon; in fact, he had assisted his father in the business all along during his school days, as time permitted. In 1903 he became partner with the elder Lum and he now owns one-half interest in the business, which he has done much to make a pronounced success. A large and carefully selected stock of all kinds of house-building material is carried, commonly found in up-to-date lumber yards.

Mr. Lum was married on November 25, 1916, to Echo Ratcliff, of Stratton, Nebraska. Politically, he is a Republican, but is inclined to vote independently. He is a member of the school board at Verdon. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He attends the Congregational church.

## DAVID D. REAVIS.

David D. Reavis, head of the firm of Reavis & Son, funeral directors and dealers in furniture, at Falls City, and one of the best-known and most enterprising business men in that city, was born in Falls City and has lived there all his life, with the exception of a period during the days of his young manhood spent in proving up a homestead claim in Arizona. He was born on December 19, 1867, son of Judge Isham Reavis, for years an honored resident of Falls City and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume.

Reared in Falls City, David D. Reavis received his early schooling there and upon completing the course in the local high school entered the University of Nebraska, pursuing there the literary course. When twenty-one years of age, in 1889, he went with his maternal uncle, John W. Dorrington, to Arizona, the uncle having a ranch there; and while there entered a claim to a homestead tract, which he "proved up" and then, in 1891, returned to Falls City and was married there in that year. Upon his return to Falls City, Mr. Reavis became engaged there in the furniture and undertaking business, taking over the old establishment that had been founded by his grandfather, David Dorrington, in 1860, and has ever since been engaged in that business, of recent years having in association with him his eldest son, David D. Reavis, Jr., the firm doing business under the name of Reavis & Son, one of the best-known firms of its kind in eastern Nebraska. In addition to his business interests in Falls City, Mr. Reavis is an extensive landowner, continuing to own his Arizona tract, besides which he has a farm of two hundred acres twelve miles north of Falls City and another farm a mile west of the city, to the general management of all of which places he gives considerable of his personal attention. Mr. Reavis is a Republican and has rendered public service to the community as a member of the school board and as a member of the city council, representing his ward in the latter body during the years 1912-14, a period of great development for Falls City, for it was during that term of the council that the city put in the general sewer system and started on its era of paving.

On March 4, 1891, David D. Reavis was united in marriage to Grace G. Yutzy, who also was born in Falls City, daughter of Dr. J. C. Yutzy, further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union five children have been born, namely: David D., who completed his schooling in the University of Nebraska and is now associated with his



father in the furniture and undertaking business, under the firm name of Reavis & Son; Grace, who also completed her schooling in the University of Nebraska and is now engaged as a member of the excellent teaching corps of the Falls City high school; Anna, who was graduated from the Illinois Woman's College at Jacksonville; Joseph C., who was graduated from the Falls City high school with the class of 1917, and Nellie, who was born in 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Reavis are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an interested part in the affairs of the same. Mr. Reavis is a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight Templar, affiliated with the blue lodge, the chapter and the commandery at Falls City, and is a member of the grand chapter, Royal Arch Masons, of the state of Nebraska, present grand master of the second veil. He also is identified with the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America and takes an active interest in the affairs of all of these organizations. The Reavises have a very pleasant home at Falls City and have ever taken an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of their home town.

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#### GEORGE W. LECLERE.

George W. LeClere, storekeeper on the great Margrave ranch in the precinct of Jefferson, this county, was born at Great Bend, county seat of Barton county, Kansas, January 12, 1865, son of John B. and Julia (Breuno) LeClere, who were born on the Sioux reservation in Iowa and both of whom were of French and Pottawattomie descent. John B. LeClere and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom but two are now living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Frank LeClere, living in Pottawattomie county, Kansas.

Reared on a farm in the vicinity of Great Bend, George W. LeClere received his schooling in the schools of that place and when twenty-two years of age began to work on his own account as a farm hand. Later he became heir to a quarter of a section land in Pottawattomie county, and after a while sold the same and, in 1892, came to Richardson county and settled on the Indian reservation in the precinct of Jefferson. The next year he married and began clerking in the Margrave Company store and has ever since been connected with that establishment, one of the best-known business men in that part of the county.

In 1893 George W. LeClere was united in marriage to Julia E. Mar-

grave, who was born on June 2, 1871, daughter of William A. Margrave and wife, the former of whom was the founder of the great Margrave estate, now controlled by his heirs under the corporate name of the William A. Margrave Company, and further and fitting mention of which family and the extensive ranch interests it controls is made elsewhere in this volume, in a biographical sketch of William C. Margrave, president of the Margrave Company and eldest brother of Mrs. LeClere. To Mr. and Mrs. LeClere four children have been born, namely: Ruby, a son, at home; Marguerite, who is in school at Baldwin, Kansas; Walter, who is in high school at Hiawatha, and Stewart, deceased.

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#### ISAAC S. CLARK.

The late Isaac S. Clark, who at the time of his death, in the fall of 1897, was recognized as one of the most substantial pioneer citizens and one of the real "old settlers" of the Verdon neighborhood in this county, was a native of the great Empire state, but had been a resident of this county practically continuously since the spring of 1857, and had thus been a witness to and a participant in the wonderful development of this region since the days of the early pioneers. His widow, who is still living on the old home place in the immediate vicinity of Verdon, is now the oldest settler in the precinct of Liberty, in this county, and her recollections of events in relation to the days of the pioneers hereabout are vivid and distinct, her memories of those days making her a veritable "mine of information" regarding the early history of this county.

Isaac S. Clark was born at Holland Patent, in Oneida county, New York, March 28, 1824, the tenth in order of birth of the thirteen children born to Asa and Polly (Shear) Clark, both of English ancestry and members of old New England families, who had become early established at Holland Patent. Reared on his father's farm, Isaac S. Clark completed his schooling in the local academy and in the Whitesboro high school, and remained at home, working the paternal farm "on the shares," until he was twenty-five years of age, when, in 1849, he went South and at Mobile, Alabama, became engaged in the daguerreotype business in association with his brother-in-law, L. C. Barnes, and was thus engaged for eight years, at the end of which time failing health impelled him to seek a new home in the then far West; and in the spring of 1857 he came out here into the



then Territory of Nebraska, which at that time comprised all of the former Indian country from the Territory of Kansas to the Dominion line on the north and to the Rockies on the west, and entered a claim to a quarter of a section of land near the present site of the village of Verdon, in the precinct of Liberty, this county, paying the government one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre for the same, that tract now being one of the best-improved and richest farms in the state of Nebraska. Upon making his location here Mr. Clark bethought him that it would be fitting to ask a partner to share his pioneer home with him and he returned to his old home in New York, and in March, 1858, married there his old sweetheart and returned straightway to his claim out here on the plains and he and his wife established their home. About four years later, meanwhile having started things going all right on their place here, Mr. Clark and his wife returned to New York and became there engaged in business with his brother-in-law, Charles J. Coates, and was thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time he returned to his home in this county and here spent the remainder of his life, becoming very successful in his farming and other operations. He was one of the promoters of the Verdon State Bank and held a considerable block of stock in the same, also having other interests hereabout, and at the time of his death on October 12, 1897, was accounted one of the most substantial citizens of the Verdon neighborhood. In 1864 Mr. Clark had joined the Baptist church and was a faithful worker in the same, for years serving as a deacon. He was an ardent temperance worker and in other ways contributed of his time and his energies to the advancement and upbuilding of the community of which he had been so active a personal factor since pioneer days. In 1858, the year after Isaac S. Clark had entered his claim here, his brother, George W. Clark, came out here with his family and pre-empted a tract of land with a view to establishing his home here on the plains, but died in October of that same year, leaving a widow and an infant son, the latter of whom, George Denison Clark, now a resident of Jefferson county, this state, was born on September 9, 1858. George W. Clark's widow, who was born in Oneida county, New York, daughter of Alvin Dennison and wife, died in Kansas in 1870. Her son, George D. Clark, married Georgia Alice Lacy, daughter of George and Louisa (Lamberton) Lacy, of Missouri, and has three children, Lacy D., George E. and Flo.

It was on March 3, 1858, in Oneida county, New York, that Isaac S. Clark was united in marriage to Eliza S. Coates, who was born in that county on June 11, 1838, a daughter of Eliphalet and Eliza (Jackson)

Coates, both members of old New England families, the former a son of Eliphalet Coates, of Connecticut, who had moved over into the timber country in New York state and has there hewed out a homestead in the forests of Oneida county. When Mr. and Mrs. Clark came here to make their home in 1858 they were accompanied by William Henry Coates, a brother of Mrs. Clark, who filed on a claim in this county and here remained until 1863, when he returned to his old home in New York state and there very successful engaged in the dairy business, remaining there the rest of his life, his death occurring on August 15, 1900. He was born on February 9, 1828. Mrs. Clark was but a little past twenty years of age when she came out here on the plains as a bride in the spring of 1858 to make her home amid pioneer conditions and she has seen this region develop from its primitive state, the habitation and abiding place of the aboriginals, to its present highly cultivated and prosperous condition and has done well her share in the development of the social and cultural life of the community which she has watched grow up from the days of the very beginning of a social order out here; she now being, as noted above, the oldest continuous resident of Liberty precinct. Mrs. Clark was reared in the Baptist Missionary faith and has always taken an interested and useful part in local church work and in other local benevolent work and is held in high esteem throughout the whole Verdon neighborhood, as well as wherever she is known throughout the county.

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#### CHARLES G. HENDERSON.

Charles G. Henderson, one of Richardson county's real "old settlers" and the proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres in the vicinity of Verdon, who is now living retired in that pleasant village, had his first acquaintance with Nebraska back in 1856, but did not become a permanent resident of this county until 1865; since which time he has been a continuous resident of the county and has, therefore, seen all the various phases of the development of this region since pioneer days. He was born in the state of New Jersey on September 23, 1833, and is now the sole survivor of the family of six children, three sons and three daughters, born to his parents, Charles and Mary (Maple) Henderson, natives of that same state, who spent all their lives there.

Charles G. Henderson was the second in order of birth of the children



born to his parents. He received his schooling in his native state and early learned the use of tools in their relation to the building trades and even as a boy was regarded as a proficient carpenter. When sixteen years of age he left home with a view to working at his trade in the cities farther West and at the same time deriving such benefits in the way of broadening his horizon as would come from travel. To this end he made his way to Cleveland and after working there for some little time went to Chicago, later working in other cities in Illinois and then pushed his way on to St. Louis, where he spent one winter and then, in the spring of 1856, came over into the then Territory of Nebraska and looked about in several of the towns and settlements that had made a start in the eastern part of the Territory, but not finding work at his trade as brisk as he had looked for returned to St. Louis and later went down into Kentucky, where he worked at his trade for about six years, or until after the close of the Civil War, when, in 1865, he came back into Nebraska and settled in this county, buying from Schoenheit & Crook, for eight hundred dollars, a tract of land not far north of the present site of the village of Verdon, a discouraged settler in that vicinity readily selling to Schoenheit & Crook his pre-emption right to the claim. Upon taking possession of the claim of eighty acres, Mr. Henderson proceeded to improve and develop the same and by the time of his marriage, in the summer of 1868 had made considerable improvements on the place and was able to see his way clear to the development of a fine bit of property there. After his marriage he established his home on the place and continued making improvements until he came to have there one of the best-improved farms in that part of the county, though, in common with others of the early settlers, he suffered some serious drawbacks in the days of the grasshoppers, and the hot winds, and hog cholera in the seventies and early eighties; but he persevered and as he prospered he added to his holdings until he now has two hundred and eighty acres of land that he regards to be the best land in Nebraska, bar none. In 1901 Mr. Henderson retired from the active labors of the farm and he and his wife moved to the village of Verdon, where they since have made their home and where they are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Henderson is a Democrat and a warm admirer and ardent supporter of President Wilson, but during the past four state elections has voted the Prohibition ticket, for years having been an earnest advocate of the cause of the state-wide prohibition of the liquor traffic in this state.

On August 18, 1868, Charles G. Henderson was united in marriage to Julia Wilkinson, who was born in Kentucky on January 20, 1853, and

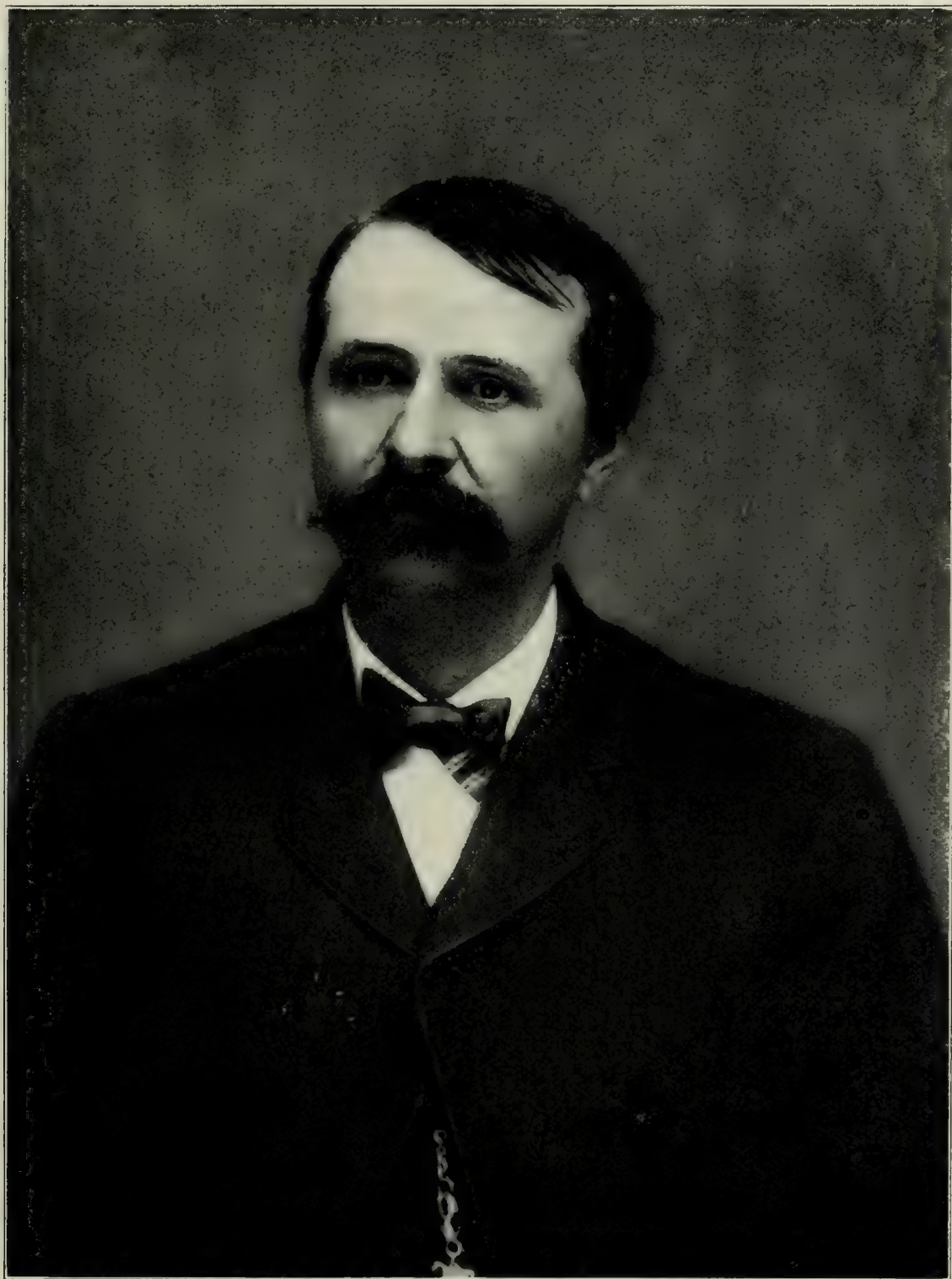
who was but a child when her parents, William Wilkinson and wife, came to Nebraska and became pioneers of Richardson county, and to this union two children have been born, a son, Dr. Robert Henderson, who married Carrie Staver and is now practicing his profession at Rulo, this county, and a daughter, Mrs. Harriet Dodderer, who has two children, Hattie and Marion, and is now making her home with her parents at Verdon. Elsewhere in this volume there is further and fitting mention of the Wilkinson family, one of the pioneer families of Richardson county, and the attention of the reader is respectfully invited to a perusal of the same for further particulars regarding the pioneer parents of Mrs. Henderson, and of the part they took in the development of the community in which they settled out here at an early day in the settlement of this region. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson are members of the Congregational church at Verdon and have ever taken an interested part in the various good works of the community of which they have been a part since pioneer days. Mr. Henderson once owned eighty acres of the townsite of Verdon and practically gave it to a poor man for whom he felt sorry.

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#### EMERSON A. HARDEN.

One of the well-known farmers and stockmen now living in retirement at Verdon, this county, is Emerson A. Harden, who was born on November 25, 1841, in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, a son of Simmons W. and Marjorie M. (Taylor) Harden. The father was born in October, 1814, in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, where he was reared on a farm, remaining in his native state until 1855, when he went to Buchanan county, Iowa, and engaged in the hotel business at Quasqueton. While he was living there the Civil War came on and he enlisted in the First Iowa Cavalry and saw considerable service in the south, taking part in many engagements in different states. He was honorably discharged and mustered out at the close of the war. He returned to Iowa in 1867 and sold his farm, removing to Nebraska and buying eighty acres east of Falls City. He made the trip here in a wagon. There was only a log cabin on the place he bought and the place had been improved but little. After living on the farm two years he started a hotel at Falls City, known as the Harden House, but later sold out and went to Leavenworth, Kansas, where his death occurred at the Soldiers' Home, on May 3, 1904, he then being at the advanced age of





EMERSON A. HARDEN.





eighty-eight years and seven months. His wife was born in Pennsylvania in 1822, and died in 1887 in Falls City. To these parents the following children were born: Emily, who is living in St. Joseph, Missouri, widow of Sidney Adams, a veteran of the Civil War; Emerson A., the subject of this sketch; Minerva, who lives in Los Angeles, California, the widow of James Kendall, and Allan, who was a cavalry soldier in the Civil War and was killed while in service, near Little Rock, Arkansas.

Emerson A. Harden was fourteen years old when his parents moved to Iowa and there he attended school and worked out as a farm hand until the breaking out of the Civil War, during the progress of which he enlisted three different times, but was rejected each time. He enlisted at the first call, but the quota being full he was rejected; his second enlistment was in the First Iowa Cavalry, rejected; third enlistment was in the Thirteenth Regular Regiment, and he was rejected on account of bad eyesight.

In 1863 Mr. Harden began freighting from Iowa to Boulder, Colorado, often driving cattle to that country, a trip requiring three months. He took the first train of provisions to one of the big mining camps in the vicinity of Boulder. It was a hazardous business, as the Indians not infrequently destroyed the outfits of freighters. There were usually twenty-two wagons in his train and four yoke of oxen to a wagon. Mules were some times used instead of oxen. Mr. Harden relates many interesting experiences of the early days in the West.

Mr. Harden came to Nebraska with his parents and rented land from Charles Steele, south of Falls City. In 1870 he bought wild prairie land in Liberty precinct, which he broke, planted to crops and improved in a general way, erecting good, comfortable buildings, set out an orchard and other trees and here he has since resided, successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. He endured many hardships and privations at the start, passing through the drouthy and grasshopper years, when all crops were destroyed; but he kept at work and managed well and is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable and productive land in Liberty precinct, and also owns land in Texas and Oregon. In 1887 Mr. Harden began breeding Percheron and Clydesdale stallions, also standard-bred trotting horses. He often exhibited his fine stock at the county fairs and drove his trotters at the racing grounds at Salem and Falls City. He continued breeding for many years and his stock always brought fancy prices, owing to their superior qualities. He also fed live stock in connection with general farming, ~~preparing for market on an average~~ two hundred head of cattle and one hundred and fifty head of hogs annually. Having accumu-

lated a competency, Mr. Harden retired from active life in 1904 and has since been living quietly in the village of Verdon, where he owns an attractive home, equipped in up-to-date fashion.

On December 11, 1868, Emerson A. Harden was married to Katherine Bowers, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of Benjamin and Harriet H. (Rubendall) Bowers. Mr. Bowers was a native of Pennsylvania, and was an early settler in Ohio. He came to Nebraska in 1867 and engaged in farming in Richardson county until his death in 1887, at the age of seventy-nine years. His wife died on February 10, 1882. They were parents of thirteen children, Katherine, who married Mr. Harden, being the seventh in order of birth. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Harden, namely: Allen E., a ranchman in the state of Washington; Carmelita, deceased; Della, wife of R. A. Tynan, a son of one of the early settlers of West Muddy precinct, this county, and Clyde, who lives in Garfield county, Nebraska, and is now serving as treasurer of that county.

Mr. Harden is a Democrat. He helped organize school district No. 32, in Liberty precinct, and was a member of the board for several years. He helped build the Congregational church at Verdon, and attends services there.

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### CHRISTIAN HORN.

Christian Horn, one of Richardson county's substantial farmers and stockmen and the owner of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres in the precinct of Barada, is of European birth, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-four years of age, having come to America in the summer of 1872, and after working at Buffalo, New York, for two or three years, went to Idaho and was there engaged in mining for five years, at the end of which time he returned to the old country, but two years later came back to America and settled in this county, which has been his place or residence ever since, with the exception of a year spent in Oregon some years ago. He was born in Holstein, a province of Prussia, February 26, 1848, son and only child of Christian C. and Augusta (Stuhr) Horn, natives of that same province, who spent all their lives in their native land.

Reared in Holstein, Christian Horn remained there until he was past twenty-four years of age and then, on June 23, 1872, left his native land for the United States, arriving in this country after a voyage of two weeks,



with about fifty dollars in his pockets. He proceeded to Buffalo, New York, where he became engaged working in a packing-plant and was there thus engaged for about three years, at the end of which time he started for the western mining country and in 1875 began working in the mines and quartz-mills in Idaho. He also did considerable prospecting and acquired an interest in a mine, his five years of experience in the mining country netting him sixty-five hundred dollars. Early in the year 1880 Mr. Horn returned to his old home in Holstein and there he remained about two years, at the end of which time he came back to the United States and proceeded on out to Nebraska, arriving in Falls City in November, 1881. During the following winter he worked in the Allgewahr packing house at Falls City and in May, 1882, bought the southeast quarter of section 28 in the precinct of Barada, this county, and after his marriage the next month established his home there. When he took possession of that farm the only improvements on the place were a log cabin and a hay stable. He improved the place, including the planting of an acre of orchard, and there made his home for ten years, at the end of which time he sold the farm to advantage and after looking about for six months bought the place on which he is now living in that same precinct, establishing his home there on February 26, 1892. In 1900 Mr. Horn had an attack of what he called "mountain fever" and began to long for the farther West, so he went to Oregon, with the expectation of probably making his permanent home there, but after a year returned to his home in this county and has since been quite satisfied to remain here. Mr. Horn now has a fine farm of four hundred acres and one of the best farm-plants in Barada precinct, including a fine bearing orchard of two acres and many up-to-date improvements. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of hogs and has done quite well in that line.

On March 7, 1882, at Falls City, Christian Horn was united in marriage to Emma Springe, who also was born in the province of Holstein, Prussia, March 20, 1861, daughter of Henry and Ernestine (Rohlf) Springe, who spent all their lives in their native land. She had come to this country early in 1882, proceeding on out to Nebraska and locating in Falls City, where she married Mr. Horn. To this union have been born nine children, namely: Mrs. Anna Stine Fehr, who lives near Stella, this county; Louise, who is at home; Henry, who is farming in Barada precinct; Augusta, who married Mortimer Zentner, a farmer living near Shubert, this county; Emma, who is engaged in the millinery business at Sargent, in Custer county,

this state; William, of Barada precinct; Minnie, deceased; Walter, deceased, and Theodore, who died at the age of eight years. Mr. and Mrs. Horn are members of the Lutheran church. Politically, Mr. Horn is an "independent."

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### FRED BAHR.

Among the surviving pioneers of Richardson county there are few better known than Fred Bahr, who started here as a farm hand back in 1868, and has long been regarded as one of the most substantial landowners in the county, having been very successful in his farming and live stock operations, the owner of eight hundred and sixty acres of choice land in Richardson county, the most of which is located in the precinct of Barada, where he has a very pleasant home.

Fred Bahr was born in Germany, near the Austrian line, in May, 1852, a son of Fred and Rosina Bahr, and there he spent his youth, remaining there until he was sixteen years of age, when, in 1868, he came to this country and proceeded on out to the then new state of Nebraska, and here became engaged as a farm hand, continuing thus engaged for several years, at the end of which time he rented a tract of river-bottom land and began farming on his own account. He was successful in that initial operation and presently bought a tract of eighty acres in Barada precinct, this county, and that became the nucleus of his present extensive farm holdings in that precinct. As he continued to prosper he gradually bought other tracts, generally buying in small lots, as he was able to do, and he is now the owner of eight hundred and sixty acres of land and the proprietor of one of the best-improved farms in Richardson county, the buildings making up his great farm plant in Barada precinct resembling a small village. Mr. Bahr began in a small way, breaking his first land with an ox-team and establishing his first home in a log cabin, a wide contrast to his present fine home establishment. During the more active period of his operations Mr. Bahr was for years actively engaged in the raising of live stock, shipping in car-load lots, but of late years has not given so much attention to the cattle industry. As his children married and made homes for themselves he settled them on his lands and the family has ever worked closely together, the mutual interest thus having been admirably and profitably preserved. During the early days, in addition to gradually extending his own interests, Mr. Bahr was able to be of help to many of the new settlers in his part of



the county and there is no pioneer of that section, who is held in higher esteem than he. Mr. Bahr is a Republican and once was honored by his party by the nomination for representative from this district in the state Legislature, but was defeated for election by one vote.

In 1876 Fred Bahr was united in marriage to Wilhelmina Finck, who also was born in Germany, in 1856, a daughter of Fred Finck and wife, who came to the United States in 1864 and who became residents of Richardson county in 1872, and to this union eleven children have been born, namely: Fred, who is farming in Muddy precinct; John H., of Barada precinct; Richard and Alvin, at home; Edward P., of Muddy precinct; Louise, wife of Fred Wertz, of Barada precinct, and Sophia, Henry, Louis, Ida and Ernest, deceased. Mr. Bahr was reared as a Lutheran and in the early days of his residence here religious services were held in his house, before the Lutherans had organized a local congregation and established a formal house of worship.

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#### WILLIAM MOSIMAN.

William Mosiman, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers and stockmen of the precinct of Jefferson, this county, and the proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 5 of that precinct, is a native son of Richardson county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in the precinct of Arago on March 26, 1872, son of John and Katherine (Mertz) Mosiman, well-known and influential pioneers of that part of the county and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume.

Reared on the home farm, William Mosiman grew to manhood there, receiving his schooling in the local schools of that neighborhood, and for two years after attaining his majority continued working for his father. He then, in 1895, rented land and began farming on his own account, remaining on that place until his marriage in 1897, when he bought the farm on which he is now living, the place on which his wife was reared, and has there ever since made his home, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of that quarter section Mr. Mosiman has made many substantial improvements on the same, including the remodeling of the house, the erection of a new barn and the setting out of an extensive grove, his place being well improved and profitably cultivated. When he bought that farm Mr. Mosiman became engaged somewhat exten-

sively in the feeding of live stock and has long been regarded as one of the leading stockmen of that part of the county, shipping from twelve to fifteen carloads of cattle annually. He has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and for the past eight years has been a member of the local school board, his service in that connection having been valuable in the way of extending the cause of education in that district.

On March 10, 1897, William Mosiman was united in marriage to Clara Heiser, who was born in Kansas on June 25, 1879, daughter of Charles and Mary (Spring) Heiser, the former a native of Germany, who became early settlers in Nebraska, locating on the farm now owned by Mr. Mosiman and where his wife was reared. After the death of Charles Heiser his widow married William Hahn and is now living at Falls City. Mr. and Mrs. Mosiman have five children, Elma, who was graduated from the Falls City high school and is now a member of Richardson county's excellent public school teaching staff, and Ramona, Dorothy, Delpha and Chester, all of whom are at home. The Mosimans have a very pleasant home and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of their home neighborhood. They are members of the Evangelical church and take a proper interest in church work and in other local good works, helpful in promoting agencies having to do with the advancement of the common welfare of the community in which they live.

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#### HON. WILLIAM H. CROOK.

The Hon. William H. Crook, former representative from this district to the Nebraska state Legislature and for years the leading hardware merchant at Falls City, and who also has extensive banking and real-estate interests in that city and in the county, is a native of the state of Tennessee, but has been a resident of the West since he was three years of age and of Richardson county since he was four and may therefore very properly be included among the real "old settlers" of this county. He was born on May 9, 1851, son of Jesse Crook and wife, also natives of Tennessee, who became the third permanent settlers in Richardson county and further and fitting reference to whom is made elsewhere in this volume. It was in the fall of 1853 that Jesse Crook left Tennessee with his family and drove west with an ox-team, stopping in Missouri until the spring of 1855, when he came over into the then Territory of Nebraska and settled on a farm at



a point one mile from where later the flourishing city of Falls City sprang up, he being the third permanent settler in this county. As a progressive and energetic pioneer, Jesse Crook took an active part in pioneer affairs and became an extensive trader in real estate and a well-to-do citizen, the owner of several valuable farms in the county. In 1858 he settled in the then promising village of Falls City and it was there that the subject of this sketch grew to manhood.

As noted above, William H. Crook was but two years of age when his parents drove through to Missouri from Tennessee and he was but four years of age when, two years later, they came over into this county and was seven when they took up their permanent residence at Falls City, where he grew up, early becoming identified with the business interests of that then rapidly developing frontier town. His early schooling, received in the subscription schools of Falls City, was supplemented by attendance on the school conducted by Professor McKenzie at Pawnee City. Later Professor McKenzie moved to Peru and organized a private school up in the neighboring county of Nemaha, and he also later attended the school, which later became a state normal school. From the days of his boyhood Mr. Crook took an active part in local business affairs and in 1879 became engaged in the clothing business at Falls City, which business he followed for four years. He also for some time was engaged in the raising of live stock on land now comprised within the city limits and was likewise for a time engaged in the banking business. In 1889 he established his present hardware, plumbing and heating establishment at Falls City and has ever since been successfully engaged in that business, having developed the largest concern of that kind in the city. Mr. Crook also continues to be interested in the banking business and is a member of the board of directors of the Richardson County Bank. He is the owner of four hundred acres southeast of Falls City and is quite well circumstanced. Mr. Crook is an ardent Democrat, one of the original Bryan Democrats, and has ever been a warm admirer and personal friend of the great Nebraska "commoner." In 1884 he was elected to represent this district in the state Legislature and served with credit in that body during the session of 1885.

In 1874 W. H. Crook was united in marriage to Lydia Worley, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of a soldier of the Union who gave his life for his country during the Civil War, and to this union five children have been born, namely: John, a prosperous building contractor, with offices at Falls City, Kansas City and Denver; William, who is associated with

his father in the hardware business; Guy, who is a partner of his brother John in the contracting business; Mrs. Edna Hurst, whose husband is connected with the Crook brothers in the contracting business, and Eliza, who was graduated from the Falls City high school with the class of 1917.

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### WILLIAM HENRY ELSE.

William Henry Else, who departed this life some years ago, was one of the real old settlers of Richardson county, and one of the best respected men of Barada precinct; his was a long life of usefulness and ceaseless endeavor, the best years of which life were spent on the battlefields of the South fighting in defense of the Union during the great Civil War. The late William Henry Else was born on a farm in Logan county, Ohio, August 4, 1839, and when ten years of age his parents removed to Mahaska county, Iowa, and became pioneers of that county. There William H. Else was reared to young manhood and married to Zilpha Gearhart on January 1, 1860. The young couple had hardly got settled down to housekeeping and were caring for their first child when the Civil War broke out and the call came from President Lincoln for volunteers to put down the rebellion of the Southern states. Mr. Else responded and the young couple broke up their newly-made home, thereby placing patriotism and love of country above all other considerations. Ingrained in both of them was a sacred love of free institutions and the desire to serve their country. Mr. Else enlisted in August, 1861, and became a member of Company H, Eighth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, which was organized in Mahaska county. He was mustered into active service in September, 1861, and served until honorably discharged from the service in October, 1864. His regiment participated in many great battles and sieges, in all of which he was present. Among the engagements in which he fought were those at Corinth, Island No. 10, Mission Ridge, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain and the siege and capture of Vicksburg. A Bible reposing in his breast pocket saved his life during a battle, the bullet which would have caused his death glancing off the Bible, which he religiously carried all through his arduous service. While her husband was absent during his war service Mrs. Else invested his pay, which he sent home regularly each month, in a tract of eighty acres of uncleared land in Mahaska county. Upon his return home the young couple at once set to work to create a home upon this wild land. They bought a small house







WILLIAM H. ELSE.





MRS. ZILPHA GEARHART ELSE AND CHILDREN.





and after moving the house to its new location, they had but thirty-five dollars remaining. During the first winter Mr. Else worked at a saw-mill for one dollar a day, walking five miles night and morning to his place of work. This money he gave to Mrs. Else, with which to buy a cow. Thus equipped they began to carve out their fortunes and endured many hardships until success at last crowned their efforts. Many times during the wee small hours of the morning, and while the children were sleeping in their beds, Mr. and Mrs. Else would sally forth and pick blackberries during the summer season so as to have fruit delicacies to serve to the harvest hands during the day.

There came a day, however, when the West beckoned and called to them and, in 1877, they sold their Iowa land and came to Richardson county. Here they bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Barada township. This place had been practically abandoned by its owners during the grasshopper years and was partly broken up and improved, with a small shanty erected by the homesteader. They went to work with a will and, being ambitious, eventually had a comfortable home and buildings and increased their land holdings to two hundred and eighty acres. They had the satisfaction of seeing their later years crowned with success and were able to live comfortably and have many of the luxuries of life.

To Mr. and Mrs. Else were born the following children: William Wilson Else, of Shubert, who is a landowner in Richardson county; Elmer Ellsworth Else, of Shubert, who has had two children, Charles Wilson, who was accidentally drowned at the age of twenty-four years, and Nellie Grace, who was drowned with her brother, at the age of fourteen years; Mrs. Clara May Krug, who lives at Shubert and has three children, Harry, who married Emma Boatman and has one child, Russell Max; Clyde Krug, and Bernice, who married John Lewis and has one child, John Vernon.

Mrs. Zilpha (Gearhart) Else, mother of the foregoing children, was born on May 10, 1843, in Floyd county, Kentucky, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Hale) Gearhart, natives of old Kentucky, who removed to Mahaska county, Iowa, in 1845. Shortly after their removal to Iowa, Benjamin Gearhart was employed in the woods in cutting fence rails at a wage of twenty-five cents a hundred. During this occupation he became ill with the fever which was the bane of the early settlements of the Iowa backwoods and died. The widow later married a Mr. Shoemaker and died in California.

William Henry Else died on January 2, 1902, and his passing was

sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He was a man of sterling worth, who in later years suffered severely from the privations which he underwent while serving his country. He was a member of the Baptist church and was religiously inclined. He was an ardent Republican and took an active interest in county and state politics, although he had no ambition to hold office. Mr. Else was a charter member of Shubert Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and always took a keen interest in the affairs of his favorite order. Mrs. Else is a member of the Baptist church and is a liberal contributor to religious works and to charitable undertakings. She is one of the charter members of the Shubert Woman's Relief Corps; is active, despite her years; keeps abreast of the times, and is progressively inclined.

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#### MATTHIAS SCHULENBERG.

Matthias Schulenberger, proprietor of the store at "Mattsville," in section 1 of the precinct of Ohio, this county, and of the farm of fifty-seven acres surrounding the same, is a native of the old Empire state, but has been a resident of this county since he was nine years of age, having come here with his parents in 1865, and has thus been a witness to the development of Richardson county since pioneer days. He was born in Erie county, New York, July 1, 1856, son of John and Barbara (Walter) Schulenberg, both of European birth, the former a Prussian and the latter an Alsatian, who became pioneer residents of this section of Nebraska and here spent their last days.

John Schulenberg was born about 1840 and was about fourteen years of age when he came to this country from his native Prussia with his parents, the family settling in New York state, where he learned the carpenter and cabinet-making trades, at which he worked practically all the rest of his life. He grew to manhood in the state of New York and there married Barbara Walter, who was born in the Alsace-Lorraine country of Europe about 1842 and who was twelve years of age when she came to this country with her parents, the family settling in New York state. After his marriage John Schulenberg continued to make his home in New York until 1865, when he came with his family out to the then Territory of Nebraska, proceeding by steamboat from St. Joseph to the old landing of Arago, in this county. He rented a farm in the immediate vicinity of Rulo and there settled with his family, starting a bit of farming, but giving his



chief attention to his work as a carpenter. Four years later he bought the farm now owned by his son Frank, six miles north of Falls City, paying for the same twelve dollars an acre, and there established his permanent home, spending the rest of his life there. When he took possession of that place there was a house, a mere shack, and a barn on it and he made extensive improvements on the place, set out three acres of orchard and planted a sizable grove. During the early days of that community John Schulenberg was one of the most active builders thereabout and built numerous churches and school houses and many dwelling houses. When the old county seat town of Arago was deserted and practically abandoned, it was he who moved most of the houses to Fargo. He was a Democrat and served for one term as coroner of Richardson county. He died on December 19, 1891, and his widow survived him for ten years, her death occurring in 1901. They were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were five of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: John, of Sidney, this state; Joseph, deceased; Mrs. Barbara Lahmer, deceased, and Frank, who is farming the old home place in the precinct of Ohio.

Matthias Schulenberg, as noted above, was but a boy when he came to this county with his parents in 1865, and his schooling was completed in the district schools of this county and at St. Benedict College at Atchison, Kansas. His young manhood was spent in helping to improve and develop the home farm. Upon attaining his majority he began to work on his own account and presently rented a farm and after his marriage in 1881 established his home on the same, remaining there until 1883, when he bought ninety-three acres in section 1 of the precinct of Ohio, where he is now living, and later bought an adjoining tract, still later selling the east part of his place, retaining the fifty-seven acres which he still owns. In 1907 Mr. Schulenberg left the farm and moved to Barada, where he erected a building and engaged in the saloon business, continuing thus engaged in that business there until 1911 in which year he moved that building onto his farm, put in a stock of general merchandise and has since been conducting a store there, his place becoming locally known as "Mattsville," and is doing quite well in a mercantile way, his store being a great convenience for the people of that neighborhood. Mr. Schulenberg is a Democrat and has served the public as a member of the local school board. By religious persuasion he is a Catholic, in which faith he was reared.

On February 7, 1881, Matthias Schulenberg was united in marriage to

Caroline Portrey, who was born in this county in 1860, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Stepich) Portrey, natives of Ohio and early settlers of Nebraska, the former of whom is still living, a resident of Falls City, and to that union five children were born, namely: John, who is farming in the precinct of Arago; Joseph, who is farming in the precinct of Ohio; Mrs. Catherine McNulty, of Falls City; Gustave, the fourth in order of birth, and Adam, who is helping his father.

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### IMPERTOUS M. BOWERS.

One of the most enterprising young farmers of Liberty precinct is Impertous M. Bowers, who is also known throughout Richardson county as a buyer of live stock. He was born on the old homestead in the above named township, August 29, 1873, a son of Daniel and Emeline (Beckenhopt) Bowers. The father was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, May 13, 1833, and died on May 23, 1901. In 1872 he came to Richardson county, Nebraska, and purchased a tract of partly improved land in Liberty precinct, where the family still resides. There he spent the rest of his life engaged in general farming and stock raising, feeding large numbers of cattle and hogs, becoming one of the leading farmers of the county and a man of influence. His wife was born in Stark county, Ohio, and her death occurred in 1881. To these parents six children were born, namely: Mrs. Ada L. Nulk, deceased; Lois, wife of Fred Heineman, of Verdon, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Emerson L., a farmer and stockman of Liberty precinct, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this volume; Impertous M., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Myrtle Kiefer, who lives at Hot Springs, South Dakota, and Oliver H., who lives at Falls City.

Impertous M. Bowers grew up on the home farm and attended the district schools. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age and then began working out as a farm hand. Five years later he began farming for himself and presently bought his present farm in Liberty precinct, the same consisting of one hundred and three acres. He does not farm on a very large scale, preferring to devote much of his time to buying and shipping live stock, in partnership with his brother, Emerson L. Bowers, and has been feeding cattle for a period of thirteen years—about three carloads a year. He and his brother also buy and ship apples in large quantities each autumn.





IMPERTOTS M. BOWERS AND FAMILY.





Mr. Bowers was married on February 24, 1901, to Minnie Cooper, who was born in Atchison county, Missouri, a daughter of Hicks and Sophia (Scheele) Cooper, the former a native of Missouri and the latter a native of Germany, from which country she came to America when young, and to this union three children have been born, Ralph, Fern and Charline. Mr. Bowers is an independent voter. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America.

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### WILLIAM ROBERT BATES.

William Robert Bates, a successful cement contractor and coal dealer at Falls City and one of the most active and progressive business men in that city, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his infancy. He was born on February 13, 1882, son of William Robert and Etta (Kessler) Bates, also natives of Germany, who left their native land in 1884 and came to the United States, proceeding from the port of New York to Illinois, where they presently settled on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Bloomington, where they spent the rest of their lives, the subject of this sketch being left orphaned at the age of thirteen years by the death of his parents.

Thus seriously handicapped in the race of life William Robert Bates faced the tasks before him with resolute courage and from the days of his boyhood began doing for himself, working as a farm hand, as a teamster, as a plumber, as a bricklayer or at any work his hand found to do, meantime pursuing his studies by private reading as best he could, with an earnest desire to gain more of an education than his limited opportunities for schooling in the days of his boyhood had permitted. After he was twenty years of age he bought a set of books, being advised and instructed by a student friend, and set himself so diligently to the task of mastering the contents of the same that he presently acquired a pretty good general education. During this time he was traveling quite a bit, securing employment at one place and another and this further broadened his knowledge. In January, 1907, Mr. Bates arrived at Falls City and for two months thereafter was engaged in work as a farm hand in that vicinity. He then, in 1908, took up cement contracting in a small way and has since been thus engaged on his own account, having been successful from the very beginning of his endeavors in that line and has come to be regarded as one of the leading cement con-

tractors in this part of the state. During this time he has on various occasions worked in partnership, but is now carrying on his extensive business alone. In 1915 he added a coal yard to his cement works and in this latter line also has been successful. Mr. Bates has made a specialty of the construction of hollow tile silos and has erected many of these substantial structures throughout this section of Nebraska and over the line in Kansas.

On April 28, 1915, William Robert Bates was united in marriage to Ann O. McCool, who was born at Salem, this county, daughter of Albert A. and Roseatte (Clark) McCool, the former of whom was born in Guthrie county, Iowa, and the latter in this county, daughter of pioneer parents. Albert A. McCool came to this county from Iowa forty-five years ago and engaged in the hardware business at Salem, where he married and established his home. Mr. and Mrs. Bates have a pleasant home at Falls City and take a proper part in the general social activities of their home town.

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#### WILLIAM F. KENTOPP.

William F. Kentopp, of Falls City, one of Richardson county's best-known and most substantial retired farmers and landowners and a United States game warden, attached to the department of agriculture, with particular reference to the preservation of migratory birds, is of European birth, but has been a resident of this country since he was sixteen years of age and of Richardson county since 1881. He was born in the vicinity of the city of Berlin on February 15, 1860, son of John and Catherine (Rater) Kentopp, both natives of West Prussia, the former born on May 9, 1828, and the latter, September 26, 1826, who came to this county in 1882 and the latter of whom is still living here, making her home with her son, the subject of this sketch, at Falls City. The year after establishing himself in Richardson county, William F. Kentopp sent back money to his parents with which to pay their passage to this country and he provided a home for them in this county, John Kentopp spending his last days here, his death occurring on January 10, 1910. His widow still survives him and is living with her son at Falls City, at the advanced age of ninety-one years. She has four children, the subject of this sketch having a brother, August Kentopp, a farmer, living near Verdon, this county, and two sisters, Mrs. Amelia Edlinger, a widow, living in Berlin, Germany, and Mrs. Augusta Shup, of Chicago, Illinois.



Upon completing the course in the common schools of his native land, William F. Kentopp, in 1876, he then being sixteen years of age, came to the United States, and for three years thereafter was engaged in working in the coal mines at Milesdale, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and later, for a season, as a farm hand in that vicinity, in the meantime acquiring a practical working knowledge of the English language and saving the neat sum of six hundred dollars. With the determination to invest this sum in Western land he started West in 1881, his objective point being Falls City. Between St. Louis and Atchison the train on which he was traveling was held up by train robbers and he was relieved of his "roll," the bandits leaving him in possession of but a meager supply of small change, enough to pay his carfare from Atchison to Falls City and fifty cents over. He offered to give this remaining half dollar for transportation up to the home of a friend in Ohio precinct, where the village of Straussville now stands, but was taken out without charge and thus had a half dollar with which to begin operations in a new land.

Nothing deterred by this appearance of adversity, Mr. Kentopp settled down to begin all over again and through the kindness of friends was enabled to rent a tract of land and set up in farming in the precinct of Ohio. The next year he sent for his parents and the year following, in the spring of 1883, returned to Pennsylvania and was there married. In 1888 he bought a quarter of a section of land in Ohio precinct, this county, built a new house and other farm buildings, including one of the finest dairy houses in the state of Nebraska, the same surrounding a remarkable fine spring, and it was not long until he began to be counted among the leading farmers and stockmen of that part of the county. As he prospered in his agricultural operations Mr. Kentopp added to his holdings until he now is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of fine and well-improved land in Richardson county, a quarter section in section 30 of Ohio precinct and an adjoining quarter section in section 25 of the precinct of Liberty, his eldest son, John Kentopp, now farming the latter tract. Mr. Kentopp remained on the farm, actively engaged in farming and stock raising, until 1912, when he retired and moved to Falls City, where he bought a comfortable modern residence on Stone street and has since made his home there. His wife died there in 1915 and his eldest daughter is now his housekeeper. Mr. Kentopp has for years given particular attention to the preservation and conservation of the game resources of Nebraska and of this section of the Middle West and in 1909 was appointed a special game warden for this state. In 1913 he was appointed traveling game warden for Nebraska and in 1915 received the

appointment of United States game warden, under the direction of the department of agriculture, with special jurisdiction in the matter of the preservation of migratory birds and still occupies that position, giving his close personal attention to the duties of that important office. Mr. Kentopp is a member of the Lutheran church and has ever given proper attention to church work and other neighborhood good works. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Falls City lodge of the Knights and Ladies of Security, having transferred his membership in that order from the lodge at Verdon to that at Falls City upon his removal to the latter place, and is the oldest surviving member of the Verdon lodge. Politically, he is a Democrat.

On May 1, 1883, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, William F. Kentopp was united in marriage to Pauline Strauss, who was born in Germany in 1858, a daughter of John Strauss and wife, and who died, as noted above, in Falls City in 1915. To that union were born eight children, the first two of whom were born in Pennsylvania, the others in Richardson county, namely: Mrs. Anna Boatman, a widow, who is keeping house for her father at Falls City; Mrs. Catherine Harkendorf, of the precinct of Ohio; John, a well-known and progressive young farmer of that same precinct; Charles, who is an automobile salesman at Falls City; Fred, a farmer of Ohio precinct; Emil, who is engaged with his brother Charles in the automobile business at Falls City; William, a farmer of Ohio precinct, and Edward, who is a machinist in the Kentopp garage at Falls City.

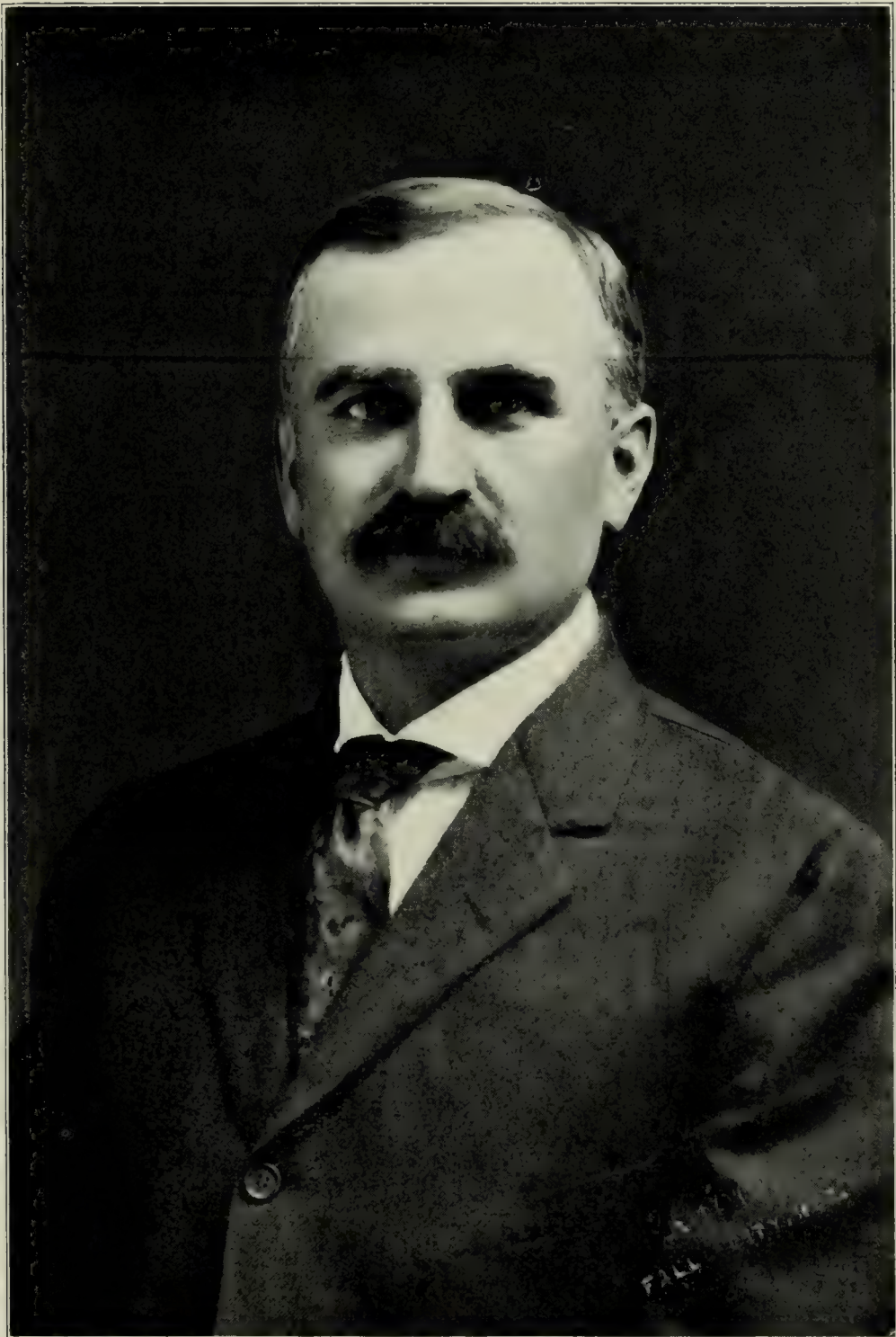
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### JOHN MOSIMAN, JR.

John Mosiman, Jr., member of the firm of Werner, Mosiman & Company, dealers in farm implements and automobiles at Falls City, a member of the city council and chief of the volunteer fire department of that city, is a native son of Richardson county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in the precinct of Arago, nine miles northeast of Falls City, December 28, 1874, a son of John and Catherine (Mertz) Mosiman, both of whom are of European birth, the former a Swiss and the latter a Swabian, who are now living comfortably retired in Falls City, which has been their place of residence since 1898.

The elder John Mosiman was born in 1835 and he remained in his native Switzerland until he was twenty-one years of age, when, in 1856, he came to this country and proceeded on out to Indiana, locating in the





JOHN MOSIMAN, JR.





vicinity of Bluffton, in that state, where he married Catherine Mertz, who was born in Swabia in 1839 and who had come to this country in 1855. After his marriage John Mosiman established his home on a farm in the vicinity of Bluffton and there remained until 1867, when he came to Nebraska with his family and settled on a farm in Arago, which he proceeded to improve and develop, and on which he made his home until in April, 1898, when he traded that tract of one hundred and sixty acres for a farm in Brown county, Kansas, and then retired from the active labors of the farm and moved into Falls City, where he and his wife have since made their home. To them ten children have been born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mrs. Christina Kammerer, of Morgantown, West Virginia; Fred, of Falls City; Mrs. Mary Reynolds, of Falls City; William, a farmer, living five miles northeast of Falls City; Louisa, who died at the age of seventeen years; Mrs. Katie Bauman, of Scio, Oregon; Mrs. Anna Heiser, who is living on her father's farm across the line in Kansas; Mrs. Ida Johnston, of Superior, this state, and Henry, of Falls City.

The junior John Mosiman was reared on the home farm in the precinct of Arago, receiving his schooling in the schools of district No. 28, at old Arago Center, and from boyhood was a valued aid to his father in the labors of improving and developing the home farm, remaining at home until after his marriage in 1898, when he began farming on his own account and was thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time he left the farm and moved to Falls City, where he entered the employ of G. D. Bici, grocer, who a year later sold his store to Johnson brothers. Mr. Mosiman continued with the latter firm for six months and then engaged in the sale of agricultural implements, wagons and carriages, later adding to this line the sale of automobiles, and has done very well. The present firm of Werner, Mosiman & Company is made up of Ernest Werner, father-in-law of Mr. Mosiman, John Mosiman, Jr., and Edward Yoesel. The business was established in 1904 on a modest scale, but by fair methods of dealing has gradually expanded until now it carries an investment of thirty-five thousand dollars and is doing an annual business exceeding that sum. The firm carries the goods of the Moline Plow Company, the Canton Plow Company, or the "P. & O." line, and the International Harvester Company's line, besides automobiles and accessories, and is one of the best-known dealers in these lines of goods in this part of the state. Mr. Mosiman is an "independent" Republican and during his residence in Arago precinct served for two years as assessor and was for one year census enumerator. He has been chief

of the volunteer fire department of Falls City for the past six or seven years and for the past two years has been councilman from his ward in the city council.

On February 24, 1898, John Mosiman, Jr., was united in marriage to Sophia Werner, who also was born in the precinct of Arago, a daughter of Ernest and Carolina (Miller) Werner, who are now living in Falls City, where Mr. Werner is engaged in the business above set out, head of the firm of Werner, Mosiman & Company. Mr. Werner is of European birth, a native of the grand duchy of Baden, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood. His wife was born in the city of Buffalo, New York. They came to Nebraska in 1860 and settled in Arago township, where they lived until their removal to Falls City. Mr. and Mrs. Mosiman have five children, Elizabeth, Theodore, George, Elmer and Naomi. The Mosimans are members of the Evangelical church and take a proper interest in church work. Mr. Mosiman is an Odd Fellow and a member of the Modern Woodmen and in the affairs of these organizations takes a warm interest. He is a public-spirited, energetic business man and is prompt to help along any movement having to do with the advancement of the common good in his home town and throughout the county at large.

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#### HARRY H. SCHRADER.

Harry H. Schrader, a well-known stockman and farmer of Liberty precinct, Richardson county, owner of one hundred and fifty acres of land in section 23, was born on February 28, 1874, in Cook county, Illinois. He is the son of John J. and Mary (Rammin) Schrader, natives of Germany and for many years residents of this part of Nebraska. To their marriage the following children, all of whom are living, were born: Mrs. Emma L. Jorn, of Verdon; Harry H., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Anna M. Hoffman, who lives in Council Grove, Kansas; Amelia, who married J. W. Dow, and is living west of Salem, this county, and John B., of West Muddy precinct, this county.

John J. Schrader was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, on December 15, 1842, and is now living at Verdon, this state. He left his native land when about nine years old with his mother. He went to Cook county, Illinois, in 1875. He had previously married Mary Rammin on March 2, 1871. When John J. Schrader settled in Richardson county he bought a



farm for which he paid twenty dollars an acre. He built a small shack to live in and a slough-grass shed for a barn. Later, and as his farming operations prospered, he built a better house. In addition to his work on the farm, he raised high-grade hogs, in which he traded extensively. In 1903 he sold the farm to his son, Harry, and moved to Verdon, where he now lives.

John J. Schrader's wife, Mary (Rammin) Schrader, was also a native of Germany, born in Berzerec, March 1, 1842. She left her native land when about fifteen years old and on coming to this country lived in Chicago, Illinois, with her sister, Mrs. Zorn. Mrs. Mary Schrader died on January 5, 1907. She shared with her husband the hardships of pioneer days in this part of the state, when crops and every green thing suffered from the depredations of the grasshopper plague. John Schrader paid a dollar a bushel for corn, hauling the same from Falls City. He and his wife were members of the Evangelical church, which they helped to organize at Verdon. John Schrader enlisted for service in the Civil War, in an Illinois regiment, at Chicago and served for about twenty months.

Harry H. Schrader was reared on a farm and attended the district schools and later the high school at Verdon. When twenty-one years of age he rented land from his father and two years later, with the help of his father, he bought the rented land lying about three miles west of Verdon. He farmed this land for about four years and then brought his present farm. In 1911 he erected a thirteen-room house, equipped with all modern accommodations, including electric lights, steam heat, hot and cold running water in all the bedrooms, the entire cost amounting to seven thousand dollars. The bank barn built by his father in 1895 is in use. Mr. Schrader is a thoroughly practical farmer and stock breeder, the stock being of the highest grade.

On December 20, 1900, Harry H. Schrader was united in marriage to Bertha E. Shildneck, who was born at Polo, Illinois, daughter of Hiram and Mary (Hammond) Shildneck, natives of Maryland and Virginia, respectively, early settlers of Richardson county, who came here from Illinois about 1867, are now living at Salem. Mrs. Schrader's father was a soldier of the Civil War, for which service he enlisted in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Schrader are the parents of one child, Mary Pauline, born on May 5, 1902.

Harry H. Schrader is a Republican and is a warm supporter of that party's principles. He has served on the school board for twelve years and has been superintendent of roads in his district and in other ways has

served the public, always working for the best in the general interest. He and his wife are members of the Congregational church at Salem and he acts as trustee of the church, rendering valuable assistance in that capacity.

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### MATTHEW McMAHON.

One of the well-remembered and highly esteemed citizens of Richardson county of a past generation was the late Matthew McMahon, who was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, September 15, 1842. He was a son of Morris and Catherine (Grady) McMahon, both natives of Canada, where they spent their lives on a farm, in Ontario. They were parents of seven children.

Matthew McMahon grew to manhood in Ontario and there attended the public schools and was married. He left there in 1873 and located in Clark county, Wisconsin, where he spent a few years. In 1880 he came to Nebraska, locating in Jefferson precinct, Richardson county, where he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, where his widow still resides, and there he spent the rest of his life, engaged successfully in general farming. He built a house, which he later remodeled and added to, also made other important improvements. Politically, he was a Democrat. He belonged to the Catholic church.

Mr. McMahon was married on April 22, 1873, to Ellen Condon, who was born on December 23, 1851, on a farm in Canada, where she grew to womanhood and attended school. She is a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Sheehan) Condon, who were parents of six children, Mrs. McMahon being the second in order of birth. She is a woman of rare business ability and is managing her farms in a very satisfactory manner. She owns one hundred and sixty-eight acres in Jefferson precinct, eight acres of which is in natural timber, and also owns one hundred and sixty acres of good land in Hand county, South Dakota.

Nine children were born to Matthew McMahon and wife, as follow: Maurice, who is unmarried and is farming on the home place; Mary, who also lives at home; Catherine, who is teaching school at Buffalo, Wyoming; Ellen N., who married Fred Oswald and lives at Buffalo, Wyoming; Joseph J., who was born on July 25, 1884, and who died on December 4, 1910; Elizabeth, who is teaching school in Hawkins, Nebraska; Ann, the wife of William Murphy, a farmer of Dawson, this county; Helen, who was gradu-



uated from the Falls City high school and is now engaged in teaching in this county, and Cecil, who lives at home. These children were all born in Jefferson precinct, Richardson county, except the three eldest, who were born in Clark county, Wisconsin. Mrs. McMahon and children are all members of the Catholic church.

The death of Matthew McMahon occurred on July 6, 1913. He was a man of progressive ideas, public spirited and of exemplary character.

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### HON. WILLIAM F. RIESCHICK.

Hon. William F. Rieschick, representative from this district to the Nebraska state Legislature and one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of the precinct of Falls City, owner of a quarter of a section of fine land in section 2 of that precinct and one of the leading breeders of live stock in that part of the county, is a native son of Richardson county and has lived here all his life, thus literally having "grown up" with the county, a participant in its development since pioneer days. He was born on a pioneer farm in the precinct of Arago on September 10, 1872, son of William F. and Verena (Hunzeker) Rieschick, pioneers of this county, who are now living retired at Falls City and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume.

The elder William F. Rieschick is of European birth, born in the city of Wittenburg, in Prussian Saxony, June 2, 1831. He grew to manhood in his native town and remained there until he was twenty-five years of age, when, in 1856, he came to the United States and began to work at his trade as a cabinet-maker at Buffalo, New York. There were three others of the Rieschick brothers in this country and one of these, Adolph Rieschick, was sent West into the then Territory of Nebraska to pick out a location for a farm, the brothers deciding that their best course in the new land would be to settle on a farm in the then new West. Adolph Rieschick came to Richardson county and located a tract in the precinct of Arago and when his brothers joined him here in 1858 they found him ill. He presently recovered, however, and when the Civil War broke out he enlisted for service and served as a soldier of his adopted country. He is now living at Red Willow county, this state. When the elder William F. Rieschick arrived in Richardson county in 1858 his slender stock of funds was reduced to the almost irreducible minimum of seven dollars, but he had

a stout heart and it was not long until he began to see his way clear to the development of a fine piece of property here. For his first "eighty" he paid four dollars and seven dollars an acre, one portion of it being held to be more valuable than the other, and in due time he became a considerable landowner, continuing to make his home on his original tract until his retirement from the farm in 1902 and removal to Falls City, where he and his wife are now living in comfort in their old age. It was after coming to this county that William F. Rieschick married, his wife being a member of one of the pioneer families of Richardson county. She was born, Verena Hunzeker, in the republic of Switzerland, June 10, 1843, and came with her parents to this country, the family first locating in Ohio and then coming over into the then Territory of Nebraska and settling in the neighborhood of Humboldt, this county. To William F. and Verena (Hunzeker) Rieschick were born six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: August, deceased; Emil, who died in infancy; John, who is living four miles north of Falls City; Albert, who is living on the old home farm place in Arago precinct, and Amelia, who is living with her aged parents in Falls City.

Reared on the home farm in Arago precinct, the junior William F. Rieschick received his early schooling in the district schools of that neighborhood and supplemented the same by attendance at the Western Normal at Lincoln and in the normal school at Shenandoah, Iowa, and for two years taught school, being engaged as principal of schools at Nodaway, Iowa. In 1897 he began farming, in association with his father, and in 1906 bought the farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 2 of the precinct of Falls City, on which he since has made his home and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. Rieschick has his place improved in admirable shape and has long been regarded as one of the leading farmers and stock breeders in that part of the county. He has for years given his particular attention to the breeding of Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs and is a member of the Poland China Breeders Association. He frequently has exhibited his hogs at the state fair and in 1907 won second in the spring-pig class. Mr. Rieschick is a Democrat and has for years given his thoughtful and earnest attention to local civic affairs. In 1914 he was elected to represent this district in the Legislature and thus served the district in the thirty-fourth session of the Nebraska General Assembly, during that session presenting a bill and securing the passage of the first law on the Nebraska statute books regulating the growth of hedges along the public highways of the state. In 1916 Mr. Rieschick was re-elected to



represent the first district and served with distinction in the House during the thirty-fifth session. For twelve years he has served as a member of his local school board and has served as a member of the township board in the precincts of Ohio and Falls City, for six years his attention having been thus occupied.

On March 6, 1899, William F. Rieschick was united in marriage to Catherine Werner, who also was born in the precinct of Arago, this county, in October, 1879, a daughter of Martin and Sophia (Hofer) Werner, natives of the republic of Switzerland, and pioneers of Richardson county, the former of whom is now a guard at the state penitentiary at Lincoln, and to this union four children have been born, Earl, born in 1900, who died in September, 1901; Daurena, born in August, 1902; Ruth, 1906, and Catherine, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Rieschick have a very pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social activities of their home community. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Rieschick is a member of the board of trustees of the same.

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### MARTIN KELLY.

Martin Kelly, one of Richardson county's best-known farmers, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 19 of the precinct of Barada, and one of the leading swine breeders in this part of the state, is a native son of Richardson county and has lived here all his life. He was born on the farm on which he now lives on January 14, 1879, son of Miles and Mary (Holloran) Kelly, prominent pioneers of that section of the county and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume.

Reared on the farm on which he was born, Martin Kelly received his early schooling in the school in district No. 88 and supplemented the same by a course in a business college at Falls City. When twenty-one years of age he began farming for himself in association with his brother, Daniel and, in 1905, he bought from the heirs of the family estate the quarter section of the old home place on which he is now making his home and which he has greatly improved since taking possession of the same, having built several new and substantial farm buildings, erected a silo, remodeled the house and barn and set out an orchard. For some years Mr. Kelly has made a specialty of the raising of registered Duroc-Jersey hogs

and is an active member of the National Breeders' Association in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest. His hogs are of the "Defender" type of Duroc-Jerseys and all are registered, his frequent public sales of hogs attracting much attention throughout this part of the state, and he has done much to improve the strain of swine raised hereabout, many farms having been profitably stocked from his well-known herd.

On September 5, 1896, Martin Kelly was united in marriage to Mary McMahon, who was born in Marshall county, Kansas, a daughter of Peter and Rachel (Huff) McMahon, who are now living at Beattie, Kansas, and to this union have been born six children, Catherine, Lillian, Margaret, Lucile, Florence and Miles Paul, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly are members of the Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs. Mr. Kelly is an active member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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#### ORRIN ALONZO COOPER.

Orrin Alonzo Cooper, miller and grain buyer of Humboldt, this county, having been a resident of Nebraska since the days of his young manhood, or since 1869, can rightly be classed as one of the "real old settlers" of his neighborhood. Like scores and hundreds of others who are now leaders in the commercial and industrial life of southeastern Nebraska, he began his career in Nebraska, with no capital other than his own strength and ambition to get ahead. Mr. Cooper has succeeded in carving out for himself a leading place among the commercial men of Richardson county and is an undoubted leader in this section of the state. The large establishment operated by him at Humboldt, consisting of a flourishing flouring-mill, an extensive grain and live-stock business, an electric-light and power company, and an automobile business, are in themselves substantial evidences of ability, energy, and shrewd business capacity of a high order.

O. A. Cooper was born at Conquest, Cayuga county, New York, November 18, 1849, and is a descendant of German ancestry. He is a son of Henry Cooper, born in New York, of German parents, on May 3, 1827, who moved to Branch county, Michigan, in 1853, and who came to Nebraska in 1869, and made a settlement on a farm north and west of Table Rock, in Pawnee county. He died at his home in Table Rock on April 18, 1900. The mother of O. A. Cooper was Phoebe Jane Wendover before her mar-





Orrin A Cooper





riage with Henry Cooper, and was born in Cayuga county, New York, April 5, 1829, and departed this life on September 15, 1912. Henry and Phoebe Cooper were the parents of the following children: Orrin Alonzo, the subject of this review; Mrs. Clara Lane, of Table Rock, Nebraska; William, a resident of Wymore, Nebraska; Bernard H., of Beaver City, Nebraska; Lafayette, of St. Joseph, Missouri, and Mrs. Sadie Redman, of Denver, Colorado.

Orrin A. Cooper received his education in the country schools of Branch county, Michigan, whither his parents had removed in the year 1853. After the removal of the family to Nebraska in 1869, he attended school in his home neighborhood in Pawnee county for a time and assisted his father in the development of the home farm near Table Rock for a period of four years, after which he began his own career as a grain buyer, in the employ of I. M. Norton, at Table Rock. Mr. Cooper was the first live stock and grain buyer at Table Rock after the Atchison & Nebraska railroad was built to that city. He was in Mr. Norton's employ for about two years and then purchased the business and operated it for one year, under the firm name of Cooper & Norton. After this he operated the business under his own name for one year and then formed a partnership with J. L. Linn. The new firm of Cooper & Linn bought grain and established a lumber yard at Table Rock and continued to operate the same for two years. During this period Mr. Cooper made a trip to the Indian Territory as a partner with William McClure and for one season he and Mr. McClure were buying cattle from the Indians of the territory and shipping them northward. McClure & Cooper were the first authorized buyers of cattle in the Indian territory, receiving their authority direct from the federal government. After one season's operations among the Indians, Mr. Cooper disposed of his interest in the business to Mr. McClure and returned to Table Rock. Shortly after his return home, he and Mr. Linn purchased the Hulsey elevator at Humboldt and, in 1876 he took up his permanent residence in that city and took charge of the elevator business. A company was formed under the firm name of Linn, Cooper & Fellers, and a lumber yard was established and operated for two years, in connection with the grain and live stock business. At the end of this time, Messrs Linn and Cooper bought out Mr. Fellers and a partnership was formed with Mr. L. B. Brinson, in the grain business, and the new firm proceeded to erect a two-hundred-barrel flouring-mill. This mill was run under the name of Linn, Cooper & Brinson for about a year, at the end of which time Linn and Cooper purchased Mr.

Brinson's interest and the milling, grain and lumber business was run after that by Linn & Cooper for five years. The firm of Linn & Cooper extended their operations and built a chain of elevators to care for their rapidly increasing business and this partnership continued until 1890, when it was dissolved, Mr. Linn taking over the lumber business and Mr. Cooper taking the milling, grain and live-stock business. Mr. Cooper then conducted the entire business under his own name until 1893, in which year he formed a partnership with C. M. Linn, a son of his former partner. They operated the flouring-mill and a chain of fourteen grain elevators until 1907 under the firm name of Cooper & Linn. This partnership was then dissolved, Mr. Linn taking charge of the grain elevators located outside of Humboldt and Mr. Cooper taking over the mill and other Humboldt property. Since that time he has been running the business under the name of O. A. Cooper & Son. The Industrial concerns under Mr. Cooper's management at the present time are the Humboldt steam mills, an electric-light and power plant, which supplies the cities of Humboldt, Dawson and Table Rock with light and power; an artificial ice manufacturing plant, and an automobile business, including the agency for the Buick automobiles. The average number of men employed in these various industries is fifteen. Their importance to the city of Humboldt and the western part of Richardson county cannot be overestimated, and the various industries themselves serve as monuments to the tireless energy and excellent business management of the owner and manager. Mr. Cooper is a director in the electric-light plants located at Table Rock and at Dawson. Mr. Cooper is also an extensive farmer, owning several hundred acres of land in Nebraska and Kansas, and is personally farming one hundred acres adjoining Humboldt; in fact, he has been a farmer all his life.

Mr. Cooper has been twice married. On July 4, 1875, at Table Rock, Nebraska, he was united in marriage to Calista Ellen Merrifield, and to this union the following children were born: Mrs. Grace (Cooper) MacMurray, deceased; Cary K., of El Centro, California; Mrs. Eva (Cooper) Stanley, of Coronado, California; Guy L., of Humboldt, and Mrs. Ena (Cooper) Seabury, of Omaha, Nebraska. The mother of the foregoing children was born in Benton county, Iowa, September 25, 1858, a daughter of W. P. Olive (Spracklin) Merrifield, who were parents of two children, Lydia and Calista Ellen. Mrs. Calista Ellen Cooper died on October 20, 1905, and on June 18, 1907, Mr. Cooper married Mrs. Minnie Akers, a daughter of Solomon G. and Louisa J. (Avitts) Spracklin.

Mr. Cooper is politically aligned with the Republican party and served



as mayor of Humboldt for a period of seven years. For a period of forty years he has been a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, having joined the order in 1877. He is affiliated with the Presbyterian church.

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### MERRICK W. HARDING.

Merrick W. Harding, of Humboldt, one of the best-known and most successful live-stock auctioneers in Nebraska, a well-to-do retired farmer and stockman of Richardson county and the proprietor of an extensive garage at Humboldt, where he also is engaged in the sale of automobiles and where he has extensive real-estate and banking interests, former vice-president of the First National Bank of that city and for years one of the most progressive and public-spirited "boosters" of that place, is a New Englander by birth and grew to manhood in Illinois, but has been a resident of this county since the spring of 1878 and has consequently been a witness to and a participant in the wonderful development that has marked this region during the past forty years. He was born at Lime, Grassy Hill, Connecticut, April 3, 1857, son of Christopher and Maria (Edison) Harding, both members of old New England families, who in 1872 left their native state and moved to Belvidere, Illinois, where Christopher Harding engaged in the grain business and where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in 1915.

When Merrick W. Harding was but a child his parents moved from Lime to Saybrook, Connecticut, and there he was attending a military school when they moved to Illinois. His schooling was completed at Belvidere and upon completing the course in the high school there he began teaching school and was for three years thus engaged. When he reached his majority, in 1878, Mr. Harding came to Nebraska with a view to "growing up with the country," and in May of that year he bought a quarter of a section of land at the north edge of the village of Humboldt, paying twenty-three dollars an acre for one "eighty" and thirty dollars an acre for the other. He straight-way set about improving and developing that place and after his marriage in 1880 established his home there and further proceeded to beautify and improve the tract until he presently came to have one of the real show places in Richardson county, every tree and shrub on the place having been set out by his own hand. As he prospered in his operations Mr. Harding gradually added to his farm until he had a fine farm of two hundred and eighty

acres, all but forty acres of which he sold in the spring of 1917 for fifty thousand dollars, and has since been making his home in Humboldt, where he has one of the handsomest homes in the city. Not long after beginning his farming operations here Mr. Harding began the breeding of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle and continued that line for fifteen years, after which he took up the breeding of Angus cattle and for twenty-one years continued that line, during that time coming to be known as one of the best stockmen in the state. Not long after he took up the cattle line he became engaged as a live-stock auctioneer and has ever since answered the growing demands upon his time in that direction, for years having been recognized as one of the most successful live-stock auctioneers in the West, conducting sales at Omaha, Kansas City and at many points throughout this state. During the more than thirty-three years in which Mr. Harding has been engaged as an auctioneer he has missed but three engagements and these on account of unavoidable circumstances. In addition to his extensive farming and live-stock interests, Mr. Harding also has been for years actively identified with the business interests of his home town and has been one of the most potent factors in the development of Humboldt. Upon the organization of the First National Bank of that city he was the principal stockholder and for some years acted as vice-president of the concern and owned the building in which the bank was located. He also was one of the prime movers in the organization of the State Bank. Besides the First National Bank building he has erected seven other business buildings in the city and as one of the promoters of the Odd Fellow building was able to insure the construction of that building on the admirable site it occupies. Mr. Harding years ago bought a tract of eighty-four acres on the eastern edge of town and successfully subdivided the same. He also has laid out other additions to the town and in other ways has proved himself one of the most progressive and public-spirited "boosters" in Richardson county. He has done much in the real-estate way, having bought and sold a great deal of land hereabout, and sold the first tract that ever brought two hundred dollars an acre in that part of the county. During the past six or seven years Mr. Harding has traveled extensively and has thus seen the majority of the most interesting points in this country. In the spring of 1917 he erected a large brick garage, fifty by one hundred and ten feet in dimensions and with a large storage capacity, at Humboldt, and thus has been able to extend his flourishing automobile business, he having for some time held the local agency for four of the country's best-known cars. Mr. Harding is a Republican, with "independent" leanings, but has



never been a seeker after public office, his own extensive private affairs having kept him too busy for that form of service.

On January 14, 1880, in Illinois, Merrick W. Harding was united in marriage to Medora L. Bridgeford, who was born at Millersburg, that state, daughter of Oliver and Eliza (McLane) Bridgeford, natives, respectively, of Indiana, and to this union three children have been born, Grace, who died on June 16, 1904, at the age of twenty-four years; Edna, who died on August 17, 1905, at the age of twenty years, and Brooks B. Harding, born on August 9, 1896, who is now a student at the Nebraska State University at Lincoln. Mr. and Mrs. Harding have a very pleasant home at Humboldt and have ever taken an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of their home town and of the community at large, helpful in many ways in prompting movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare. Mr. Harding is a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of these organizations takes a warm interest.

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### HENRY DAESCHNER.

Henry Daeschner one of Richardson county's best-known and most substantial retired farmers and stockmen, and the proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred acres in sections 28 and 29 of the precinct of Jefferson, now living at Preston, is of European birth, a native of the grand duchy of Baden, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his infancy and of Richardson county since he was about fifteen years of age, hence may be very properly regarded as one of the real "old settlers" of this county. He was born on July 1, 1851, and was about a year old when his parents, Charles and Susanna (Dauchler) Daeschner, left their native Baden with their family and came to the United States, settling in the vicinity of Dundee, in Kane county, Illinois, where they established their home on a farm and where they remained until the year 1865 when they came to the then Territory of Nebraska and located in this county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, useful and influential pioneers of Richardson county.

Upon coming to this county, in 1865, Charles Daeschner bought a tract of unbroken land in the precinct of Jefferson and with the aid of his

sons proceeded to develop and improve the same, it not being long until he came to be regarded as one of the best-established farmers in that section. On that pioneer farm he and his wife continued to make their home until about 1900, when they retired from the farm and moved to Preston, where they spent their last days, occupying the house now owned and occupied by Richard Daeschner, Charles Daeschner dying there in 1905, at the advanced age of eighty-four years, his widow surviving him about three years, her death occurring in 1908. She was born in 1825. Charles Daeschner and wife were members of the church of the Evangelical Association, the local congregation of which they helped to organize, and their children were reared in that faith. They were the parents of eighteen children, of whom thirteen grew to maturity, namely: Mrs. Nannie Myers, of San Antonio, Texas; Charles, now deceased; Jacob, who served as a soldier of the Union, a member of an Illinois regiment, during the Civil War and who is now deceased; Christian, deceased; Henry, the subject of this biographical sketch; John, deceased; William, a minister of the Evangelical Association, now stationed at Post Oak, Texas; Frederika, of Jefferson precinct, this county; Katherine, wife of William Zoellers, of Jefferson precinct; Frank, of Hiawatha, Kansas; Mrs. Sophia Schirmer, of Holton, Kansas; Mrs. Mary Kaiser, of Weiser, Idaho; August, present superintendent of schools at Del Norte, Colorado; Edward, a blacksmith at Falls City, this county, and Gideon, of Coffeyville, Kansas. The Daeschners in America maintain a regularly organized family association and keep the family history up-to-date, current revisions and additions to the genealogical record being made at the annual reunions of the family which are largely attended, the league being represented by numerous families in this state and in Texas, Colorado and Idaho, there also being corresponding members in some of the other states.

As noted above, Henry Daeschner was little more than an infant when his parents came to this country from Baden and his youth was spent on the home farm in the neighborhood of Dundee, in Illinois, his schooling being received in the schools of that place. He was about fifteen years of age when he came with the family to Richardson county in 1865, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Jefferson precinct, thoroughly familiar with pioneer conditions hereabout. When twenty-one years of age he began farming on his own account, renting a farm, and shortly after his marriage in the fall of 1875, bought his first land, an "eighty" in Jefferson precinct, where he established his home. He was living there when the scourge of grasshoppers swept over this region. During that



period Mr. Daeschner, in common with other pioneers of this section, saw some pretty hard times and still retains recollections of having to pay fifty per cent. interest on money borrowed to tide him over the critical period, but he persevered and presently began to see his way clear. As he prospered Mr. Daeschner gradually added to his land holdings until he became the owner of a well-improved and profitably cultivated farm of two hundred acres in sections 28 and 29 of Jefferson precinct, which he still owns, and on which he continued to make his home until in 1916, when he retired from the farm, his wife having died in 1908, and moved to Preston, where he is now living with his son, the Rev. Richard T. Daeschner.

On October 5, 1875, Henry Daeschner was united in marriage to Eliza Kaiser, who was born in the neighborhood of Chicago, in Cook county, Illinois, September 11, 1856, and who was about eight years of age when her parents, Christopher and Eliza (Jahn) Kaiser, came to the then Territory of Nebraska, in 1864, and settled in Richardson county. Christopher Kaiser and his wife were natives of Germany and upon coming to this country first settled at Dundee, Illinois, later moving to Cook county, that same state, where they remained until they came to this county and cast in their lot with the pioneers of this section of Nebraska. To Henry and Eliza (Kaiser) Daeschner five children were born, Richard T., Edwin G., deceased; Tosia, deceased; Alma L., wife of the Rev. A. E. Kurth, a minister of the gospel now stationed at Weatherford, Oklahoma, and Sadie S., wife of the Rev. E. D. Riebel, also a minister of the gospel, now stationed at Buchanan, Michigan. The Rev. Richard T. Daeschner, first-born of the children of Henry Daeschner was born on the home farm in the vicinity of Rulo on August 20, 1877, and on September 7, 1910, was united in marriage to Elma Beckenhauer, who was born at West Point, this state, January 15, 1886. He was graduated from Northwestern College at Naperville, Illinois, with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy, and was later ordained as a minister of the Evangelical Association and is now engaged in special work in the service of that association. Mrs. Eliza K. Daeschner died at her home in the neighborhood of Rulo on May 12, 1908. She was an earnest member of the Evangelical Association, as is her husband, and was ever faithful in local good works. Mr. Daeschner is a Republican and formerly and for years was a member of the school board in his old home district, ever giving a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and helpful in many ways in promoting movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare.

## EMERSON L. BOWERS.

A leading farmer and stockman of Liberty precinct, this county, is Emerson L. Bowers, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, June 26, 1870, a son of Daniel and Emeline (Beckenhopt) Bowers. The father was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, May 13, 1833, and died on May 23, 1901. The mother was born in Stark county, Ohio, and her death occurred in 1881. Daniel Bowers lived in his native state during his earlier years. He came to Nebraska in 1872 and bought land in Liberty precinct, this county, on which members of his family still live. The land had been only partly broken and on it stood a small house. He worked hard and in time had the land well improved and under a fine state of cultivation. He built a comfortable home and here he spent the rest of his life, becoming one of the leading farmers of this section of the county, and an influential citizen. In connection with general farming he raised a great deal of stock, feeding most of the grain the place produced to his stock, in fact not much corn has been hauled away from the farm since 1877. A year or two previous to that date he sold two thousand bushels at twelve cents a bushel. As late as 1896 he bought three thousand bushels for thirteen cents a bushel, and in 1917, his son, Emerson L., bought twenty-two thousand bushels of corn, for which he paid from one dollar and ten cents to two dollars and twenty cents a bushel.

Six children were born to Daniel Bowers and wife, namely: Mrs. Ada L. Nulk, deceased; Lois, wife of Fred Heineman, of Verdon, Liberty precinct, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Emerson L., the subject of this sketch; Impertous M., a farmer and stock buyer of Liberty precinct, a sketch of whom will be found on another page of this volume; Mrs. Myrtle Kiefer, who lives in Hot Springs, South Dakota, and H. Bowers, who lives at Falls City.

Emerson L. Bowers was reared on the home farm and attended the public schools in Verdon, from which he was graduated; later attending a business college in Burlington, Iowa. In 1892 he turned his attention to the live-stock business, which he has followed ever since. He and his brother, Impertous M. Bowers, ship thousands of head of cattle and hogs from Richardson county to the markets annually. They have been in partnership for many years and are among the best-known buyers in southeastern Nebraska.

In 1902 Emerson L. Bowers bought the home place, on which he has





EMERSON L. BOWERS AND FAMILY.





made extensive improvements, and has been very successful as a general farmer, stockman and apple dealer. The farm contains four hundred and fifty acres. He feeds from thirty to forty carloads of cattle and hogs annually. There is a large spring on the place, one of the best in the county, which will water twenty thousand head of stock. He has modern and substantial improvements, everything about his place denoting thrift and good management. He spent three thousand dollars in constructing cement water tanks. The place is fenced hog tight and a large portion has been seeded to alfalfa and blue grass. The place is admirably located for a stock farm, lying along what was known as the old Deer Creek branch, nine miles northwest of Falls City. In the early days a tender and nutritious grass grew along this stream and deer would come from long distances to crop it, and here the pioneers would hunt for their venison, which constituted the major portion of their meat for some time, until they could raise their own meat and get their farms started. In those days the Bowers farm was one of the favorite camping grounds of the Indians, who often amused the children of the settlers by their customs, and it was a constant source of wonder for the Bowers children to visit the Indian camps and watch the red men.

Mr. Bowers has a large and well-kept orchard of standard varieties of fruit for this latitude. In 1913 he shipped twenty-five carloads of apples from his orchard to Minneapolis, Minnesota. At one time he received the highest price ever paid for apples in that market. During the past five years he has sold apples in July. He has sixty acres in orchard, which he set out in 1911. His feed lots cover eight acres. He is a shareholder in the Omaha State Bank.

On November 18, 1894, Mr. Bower was married to Myrtle Simmons, a daughter of Columbus and Sophia (Carr) Simmons, natives of Illinois, in which state they spent their earlier years, coming to Nebraska in 1871, locating on a farm two miles west of Verdon, in Richardson county. Mr. Simmons was born in Pike county, Illinois, February 3, 1849, and after devoting his active life to farming died on February 22, 1910. His wife was born in Ohio, July 24, 1849, and died on May 10, 1911. To these parents two children were born: Myrtle (wife of Mr. Bowers), who was born on April 17, 1873, in Liberty precinct, this county, where she grew to womanhood and received a common-school education, graduating from the Verdon high school, and Cephas D. Simmons, who is now living in Manchester, Kansas.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bowers, namely: Her-

schel, who was graduated from the schools of Verdon and Falls City and is now (1917), a student in the State University at Lincoln; Mildred, who attended the local schools, and is now also a student in the State University; Percy, at home, and Janice, also at home. Mr. Bowers belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Falls City. He is a member of the National Stock Growers Association. He holds membership in the Congregational church.

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### LOUIS FINCK.

Louis Finck, proprietor of a well-kept farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 18 of the precinct of Arago, this county, was born on that farm and has lived there or in that neighborhood all his life. He was born on January 17, 1874, a son of Fred and Sophia (Tilk) Finck, natives of Germany and pioneers of this county, further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume.

Fred Finck was a Mecklenburger, born on January 12, 1830, and grew to manhood in his native land, becoming a wagon-maker. Upon coming to this country he settled in Illinois, but in pioneer times came to Nebraska and settled in Arago precinct, this county, having been here at the time of the Indian uprising. He bought a tract of land in that precinct and there developed a good piece of property, remaining there the rest of his life, his death occurring on July 14, 1893. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom five are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Wilhelmina, who married Fred Bahr and is now living at Barada; Fred P. Finck, a farmer of Arago precinct; John, of Barada precinct, and Mrs. Sophia Neimeyer, of the precinct of Ohio.

Reared on the home farm in Arago precinct, Louis Finck received his schooling in the little old log school house which did service in that neighborhood during the days of his boyhood, and from the days of his early youth was a valued aid in the labors of developing and improving the home place and has always been a farmer. He was married when twenty-one years of age and then rented a part of the home farm and began farming on his own account about three years later buying the farm on which he is now living and where he ever since has made his home, one hundred and sixty acres of the old home place. Since taking possession of that place Mr. Finck has made extensive improvements in the way of building new build-



ings and remodeling old ones and now has a well-improved farm and a well-kept farm plant.

Mr. Finck has been twice married. In 1895 he was united in marriage to Alvine Litzke, a daughter of Henry and Adaline (Fromke) Litzke, natives of Germany and residents of Richardson county, further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to that union one child was born, a son, Henry, who is at home, a valued aid to his father in the work of the farm. Following the death of Mrs. Alvine Finck, Mr. Finck married, September 13, 1901, Emma Jordin, who was born in the neighboring state of Missouri on May 19, 1874, daughter of Henry and Dora (Kolman) Jordin, who are now living in the precinct of East Barada, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Finck have a pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social activities of the community in which they live and in which Mr. Finck has lived all his life.

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### HENRY GERDES.

In examining the life records of self-made men it will invariably be found that indefatigable industry has constituted the basis of their success. True, there are other elements which enter in and conserve the advancement of personal interests—such as perseverance, discrimination and mastering of expedients; but the foundation of all achievement is earnest, persistent labor. It seems that Henry Gerdes, a member of the board of commissioners of state institutions, formerly a leading agriculturist of Richardson county and a former representative from this county in the state Legislature, now a citizen of the city of Lincoln, realized this fact when a boy and it has had much to do with shaping his subsequent career.

Henry Gerdes was born on December 22, 1855, in McHenry county, Illinois, a son of William and Hannah (Fricke) Gerdes, natives of the kingdom of Holland, the former of whom was born on May 7, 1820, and died on December 20, 1904. When a young man William Gerdes immigrated to America and located in Illinois, where he married. He lived in McHenry county, Illinois, for a number of years and later resided in Vandalia, that state, where his wife died. Two of his daughters also died there. He married his second wife in 1862 and during the latter part of that year started for Nebraska, crossing the river at St. Stephens on December 18. They were anxious to get across and into a new country on account

of the border ruffians and bushwhackers, who were active in that section of the country during the Civil War. The family was delayed on account of floating ice in the river. After getting safely across they started for the home of August Fricke, who had preceded them a week for the purpose of looking up a location for the two families. William Gerdes was bringing his family and household goods, together with some of the belongings of Mr. Fricke, in five covered wagons. Mr. Fricke had found a hut for himself, and he, Mr. Gerdes and his father-in-law cut logs that winter with which to build log houses the following spring, before time to put out crops for the following season. These families located in Arago precinct, Richardson county, William Gerdes thus having been among the earliest pioneers of this county. He and his family endured the usual privations and hardships incident to life on the western plains at that early day, when settlers were few and trading posts were far remote. He developed a good farm and established a comfortable home by hard work and perseverance and became one of the substantial and influential citizens of the eastern part of the county in that early period of the county's history, and here he spent the rest of his life and was buried a short distance from his home. Three children were born to his first marriage, namely: Martha, deceased; the next child, a daughter, died in infancy, and Henry, the subject of this sketch. To his second marriage ten children were born, as follow: Mrs. Caroline J. Koso, a widow living in Barada precinct; Mrs. Minnie J. Bolinger, a widow, who makes her home at Grand Island, Nebraska; William, who lives at Morrill, Kansas; Mrs. Mary Parchen, who lives in Falls City, where her husband is engaged in the clothing business; Julia, wife of Edward Frauenfelder, of Verdon, this county; Emma, who lives in Falls City, the widow of Charles Scoby; Mrs. Anna Egner, who lives in Brown county, Kansas; Fred, deceased; John, who is engaged in farming in Arago precinct, this county, and Sophia, wife of H. Vogle, of Arago precinct.

Henry Gerdes was seven years old when he made the overland trip in prairie schooners from Illinois to Richardson county, and he grew to manhood on the homestead in Arago precinct, where, like all pioneer boys, he worked hard when he became of proper age. He helped develop the farm from the wild prairie sod and in the winter time he attended the primitive country schools in that vicinity. As a young man he began farming for himself in that precinct and then rented land in Ohio precinct, and bought eighty acre of land with but two hundred dollars for his first payment. In 1888 he sold this farm and bought land one-half mile north of Barada and improved



it, and by close application and perseverance became very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, continuing with gratifying results until 1907, when he moved to Falls City, residing there until 1913, when he moved to Lincoln, where he has since made his home. He is owner of two hundred acres of valuable and well-improved farming land in Barada precinct and also considerable well-located city property in Falls City. He was one of the organizers of the Barada State Bank of Barada, has been a heavy stockholder in the same ever since and is now vice-president and a member of the board of directors of the same. The pronounced success of this sound and popular institution has been due in no small measure to his counsel and influence.

On February 17, 1880, at Falls City, Henry Gerdes was married to Mary Buchholz, who was born in St. Joseph county, Indiana, a daughter of August and Johanna (Rife) Buchholz. The father was born in Baden, Germany, April 20, 1834, and his death occurred on October 7, 1911. He left his native land when seventeen years old came to America and worked as a farm hand until 1853, when he went to Indiana, in which state he was married in 1858. He had learned the cooper's trade when young and this he followed in Indiana, in which state he continued to make his home until 1865, when he came to Nebraska, being among the early pioneers of Richardson county, and here he became a leading farmer, owning seven hundred acres of excellent land in Barada precinct. He carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale there until 1895, when he retired from active life and moved to Falls City, where his death occurred. The mother of Mrs. Gerdes, who was known in her maidenhood as Johanna Rife, was born on August 15, 1838, in Wurtemberg, Germany and she died on May 11, 1917. She was nine years old when she left her native land with her parents, the family crossing the Atlantic for America. They located in Indiana.

Mrs. Gerdes was born on January 20, 1859, and is the eldest of a family of thirteen children, nine of whom are living at this writing. She was educated in the public schools of her community and was reared on the home farm, where she worked hard when a girl, both in the home and in the fields. To Mr. and Mrs. Gerdes two children were born, namely: Ada, born on December 1, 1880, who married Cleon Peck on February 11, 1906, and who died on June 11 of that year, just four months to the day after she became a bride, and Conrad Gerdes, who was born on August 10, 1884, and who now lives on his father's farm in Barada precinct. These children were reared on the farm in Ohio precinct and both received good, practical educations.

Henry Gerdes is a Democrat and he has long been an active and influ-

ential worker in his party. He was a leader in this county in the old Farmers' Alliance party. In 1890 he was elected representative to the Legislature from Richardson county, being the only successful candidate of that year on the local Democratic ticket. This would indicate that he was popular in his locality and had the confidence of the people. While in the Legislature he did much for the good of his county and the state, his selection to that responsible post proving the wisdom of his constituents, to whom his record was highly pleasing in every respect. He introduced the famous farmers' mutual insurance bill, which became a law in 1891. He made such a splendid and commendable record during his first term that he was re-elected in 1892 and served with equal fidelity and ability in the session of 1893. He was returned in 1896 and served in the session of 1897 and again in 1905, 1909 and in 1911, serving in all but six terms in the Legislature. He helped elect W. V. Allen United States senator. He has held numerous local offices, such as that of chairman of the township board, and served as a member of the city council of Falls City in 1908. He is at this writing a member of the board of commissioners of state institutions, and was one of the first to be appointed to a long term (six years) on this board, his appointment having been made in 1913. He was nominated by Governor Morehead and was elected by the state Senate. He has discharged his duties in this connection in a prompt, able and painstaking manner. He is an obliging, well-informed and companionable gentleman, whom it is a pleasure to meet.

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### GEORGE WATKINS.

George Watkins, retired farmer, now living at the village of Verdon, is one of the pioneers from the Buckeye state who found excellent opportunities in Richardson county, and accordingly took advantage of them. He was born in Lorain county, Ohio, June 10, 1841. He is a son of Jared and Lura (Wood) Watkins, both natives of Vermont, where they spent their earlier years, but came to Ohio in an early day, locating their future home in Lorain county, where they engaged in general farming. Their family consisted of eleven children, three of whom died in infancy and only three of whom survive at this writing. George Watkins is the youngest of the family.

George Watkins was reared partly on the home farm in Ohio and he attended school only twenty months. In the spring of 1852 he moved with



his parents to Clayton county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming until 1871, in which year he came to Nebraska and bought two hundred acres of land in sections 25 and 26, in East Muddy precinct, Richardson county, which land he still owns. He moved to the farm in April, 1872. There he carried on general farming and stock raising, specializing as a breeder of Shorthorn cattle, finally retiring from active life in 1909 and moving to Verdon, where he has since resided. He made extensive improvements on the land. When he came here he had but little capital, but he managed well and eventually became one of the substantial farmers of his precinct, notwithstanding the fact that he was handicapped by being crippled from his eighth year.

On February 1, 1865, Mr. Watkins was married to Sarah Jones, who was born on March 28, 1844, in Iowa, a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Francis) Jones, natives of Virginia and New York, respectively. They came to Richardson county in 1874, and spent the rest of their lives on a farm in Barada precinct and in Verdon. To Mr. and Mrs. Watkins five children were born, named as follow: Carl A., who is mentioned at length in the following paragraphs; Mabel, the wife of Sherman Colglazier, who lives on a farm in Liberty precinct, this county, and who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Winnie, the wife of L. Watkins, of Auburn, Nebraska; Homer, who is farming in East Muddy precinct, this precinct, this county; and Roy, who is farming in Barada precinct and lives in Barada. Politically, Mr. Watkins is an independent voter. Fraternally, he belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Carl A. Watkins, who was born on January 2, 1867, in Iowa, grew up on the home farm in Richardson county, and attended district school No. 80, in Barada precinct. When first starting out in life for himself he taught one term of school. He worked out as a farm hand for two years and later rented land in Barada precinct and in East Muddy precinct. In 1900 he bought eighty acres in the latter precinct, which place he improved and later sold, in 1906, and bought his present farm of one hundred and forty acres in section 29, of Liberty precinct. He also owns eighty acres in section 31 of Barada precinct. He has kept the place well improved and under a fine state of cultivation. He built an attractive home and a great deal of fencing. In connection with general farming he has engaged in live-stock raising, breeding Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs, having secured the excellent herds his father owned when he retired from active farming.

Mr. Watkins was married on June 21, 1900, to Abbie Bennett, who

was born in Ohio, a daughter of George and Lucinda (Chapin) Bennett, both natives of Massachusetts. Mr. Bennett is now making his home at Verdon with his daughter, Mrs. Loren Corn. Mrs. Abbie Watkins died on October 11, 1901, and on January 21, 1907, Mr. Watkins married Mrs. Jennie (Horstman) Mayfield, a native of Iowa and a daughter of William Horstman and widow of S. M. Mayfield, by whom she had four children, namely: Clarence, who lives in Hot Springs, Arkansas; Lester, who is farming in Barada precinct, this county; Vivian, who lives in Falls City, and Alma, deceased. By his first wife Mr. Watkins had two children (twins), a son and a daughter, Ernest and Edith, born on October 4, 1901. Politically, Mr. Watkins is a Democrat. He is a member of the Christian church.

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### ELVA J. DURYEA.

Elva J. Duryea, a well-known automobile salesman of Dawson, this county, also engaged in merchandising at Nims City, this county, was born on a farm in Speiser precinct, this county, September 5, 1865, a son of Sylvanus N. and Celestia (Claus) Duryea. Sylvanus Duryea was born in 1831 in Brooklyn, New York, and died in 1877. He was a soldier in the Civil War. He came to Nebraska, in 1854, making the trip from Pennsylvania in a covered wagon, drawn by oxen, bringing his wife and household goods. He reached his goal on the wild western plains with only three dollars in money, and he had little of this world's goods. Besides his wagon and oxen he had only a few pieces of furnishings for his home, a shotgun, a cow and a dog. The cow had traveled so far that its feet got sore before it reached Nebraska and Mr. Duryea cut the tops off his boots and bound them about the cow's feet to protect them. He settled on a claim on Easley creek, Speiser precinct, this county. Their neighbors were few and far between and they endured many hardships and privations. The mother sent back East for some money which she had earned teaching school, and applied it on their claim. They built a rude log cabin and began improving and breaking up the raw land, by perseverance and very hard work they developed a good farm. At the second call for volunteers for service in the Civil War, Mr. Duryea enlisted at Falls City, but he was not long in the service, being sent home on account of sickness. He was found lying on the prairie and some of his company started to make preparations to bury him, believing that he was dying, but he revived in a few hours. Upon his re-



covery he rejoined his company and remained at the front until the close of the war, becoming a brave and efficient soldier. He was promoted for bravery and became first sergeant in his company. During his absence in the army he left his wife with neighbors on the south fork of the Nemaha river. She lived in a log cabin with her two eldest daughters. After the close of hostilities Sylvanus Duryea returned to his claim and farmed there until his death. He also was a contractor and bridge builder, building several bridges in this county. Politically, he was a Republican and took an active interest in public affairs. He was a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church. His wife was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, in 1832, and her death occurred in 1886. Six children were born to Sylvanus N. Duryea and wife, namely: Mrs. Nellie Macumber, of Falls City; Mrs. Desdemona Jenkins, who lives in California; Elva J., the subject of this sketch; Walter E., who lives in Nemaha county, Kansas; Mrs. Grace Nuttle, deceased, and Alice, also deceased.

Elva J. Duryea, who is probably the oldest living native-born citizen in Richardson county, was reared on the old homestead in Nemaha precinct. He worked hard when a boy, as did all sons of pioneers, and helped break up the sod and develop the home farm. When a boy he herded cattle on the plains a great deal. He received a good education in the early-day district schools, and in Campbell University at Holton, Kansas, working his way through college, working all day for his board, and has supported himself since he was twelve years old. For some time he worked as a farm hand, and finally bought out the heirs to the home place, which he operated until 1892, in which year he engaged in the blacksmith business at Dawson, following that vocation until 1901, when he returned to farming in Nemaha precinct; but in 1903, he turned his attention to mercantile pursuits at Nims City, starting a general store there, which he still operates, enjoying a large and growing trade. Mr. Duryea was a patron of the automobile from the first and owned one of the first four machines in Richardson county. He was one of the first machinists of the county to do repair work on automobiles. In 1913 he moved his tools to Dawson and began repairing and selling automobiles, in partnership with Edward Uhri, which partnership continued successfully until 1915, since which time Mr. Duryea has been engaged in the business alone. He handles the Overland car and has built up a very satisfactory business in this line.

On February 2, 1887, Elva J. Duryea was married to Amelia Bacon, a native of Richardson county, where she grew up and attended school. She

is a daughter of Elmer and Sarah (Johnson) Bacon, natives of Pennsylvania, who settled in this county after the Civil War. Mr. Bacon and four of his brothers were soldiers in the Civil War, all serving in Pennsylvania regiments. Eight children have been born to Elva J. Duryea and wife, namely: Myrtle, the wife of Robert Haushan, of Nemaha precinct; Seth M., manager of the Nims City store owned by his father; Lloyd, manager of his father's garage at Dawson; Earl, who is working in the store at Nims City; Cecil, a machinist, who works in the garage at Dawson, and Chester, Dale and Donald, who live in Nims City.

Mr. Duryea is a Republican and was elected county commissioner in 1915. He has also served on the local school board. He belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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#### WILLIAM SHERMAN COLGLAZIER.

Among the citizens of Richardson county who originally came from the Hoosier state is William S. Colglazier a farmer of Liberty precinct, who was born in Washington county, Indiana, March 31, 1867, a son of John N. and Sarah (Combs) Colglazier. The father was born in Washington county, Indiana, October 30, 1844, and is now living in Florida. He grew up in his native county, attended school and married there, and engaged in farming in that county until 1870, when he came to Nebraska, locating on a farm near Verdon, Richardson county, buying eighty acres. This place is now owned by H. P. Kelly. Here he engaged in farming until 1885. John N. Colglazier was twice married, the last time in 1915, to Mrs. Beck, a widow. By his first wife he was the father of the following children: Lulu, wife of M. Jones, a farmer, living on a farm north of Shubert, this county; William S., the subject of this sketch; Minnie, who married L. Jones and is now deceased, and Fred, a hardware merchant of Falls City.

William S. Colglazier spent his boyhood on the farm in Richardson county, having been but three years of age when his parents brought him from Indiana, and received a common-school education. He began life for himself when seventeen years old, farming on rented land until 1907, when he bought his present farm, which was unimproved. He built a house, barn and other outbuildings, set out trees and made extensive improvements in general. The place consists of one hundred and sixty acres in section 20.



In connection with general farming he raises Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs.

On December 24, 1892, Mr. Colglazier was married to Mabel P. Watkins, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of George and Sarah (Jones) Watkins, mention of whom is made in the sketch of Carl A. Watkins on another page of this work. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Colglazier, namely: Harold (deceased), Doris, Enid, Mildred, Minnie, Sarah and Arden F. Doris married Clair Brown and lives in Liberty precinct. Mr. Colglazier is a Republican. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and Mrs. Colglazier are members of the Christian church.

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### ROBERT E. GRINSTEAD.

There is no positive rule for achieving success, and yet in the life of the successful man there are always lessons which might well be followed. The man who gains prosperity in any vocation is he who can see and utilize the opportunities that come in his path; an example of this type of man being Robert E. Grinstead, formerly representative from this county to the state Legislature and one of the leading citizens of Richardson county, but now living in honorable retirement in the city of Lincoln, after an exceptionally successful career as a general agriculturist.

Robert E. Grinstead was born on April 1, 1840, in Glasgow, Barren county, Kentucky, and is a scion of a sterling old Southern family. He is a son of Philip W. and Angeline (Jones) Grinstead. Philip W. Grinstead was also a native of Glasgow, Kentucky, where his parents located in pioneer times in the old Blue Grass state. The date of his birth was 1808. There he grew to manhood and devoted his active life to farming and surveying. He owned a large plantation in the South and prior to the Civil War owned a small number of slaves, but was not of the slaveholding class, and abhorred slavery. He was loyal to the Union and during the war formed a company of Home Guards of which he was elected captain. He was killed in his own home in 1863 by a Confederate soldier and while he lay wounded to death the home was harrassed and threatened by Rebel soldiers encamped nearby, his son, Robert E., remaining in hiding. He was an ardent admirer of Abraham Lincoln and was loyal to the President to the last. Although a small slaveholder, he believed in the policies of Lincoln. He was an extensive stock raiser. He was a son of Philip and Lucy (Hooker) Grinstead,

natives of Virginia. Lucy Hooker was a daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Guy) Hooker and she attended school with Henry Clay in Virginia and was always interested in the career of the great Kentucky statesman. Angeline Jones, mother of the subject of this sketch, was born in Barren county, Kentucky, in 1812, a daughter of John and Polly (Young) Jones. She grew up, attended school and married in Kentucky. Her death occurred in 1890 on the old homestead, where she had lived for a period of fifty years.

Fourteen children were born to Philip W. and Angeline Grinstead, as follow: William E., a retired merchant, of Louisville, Kentucky; George R., a retired farmer of Falls City, Nebraska; Emily, who married Thomas Depp and is now deceased; Robert E., the subject of this sketch; Dr. C. T. Grinstead, a physician of Glasgow, Kentucky, who was a soldier in the Civil War, was wounded in the battle of Stone's River, Tennessee, and who rose to the rank of lieutenant before being mustered out of the service of the Union; Mrs. Laura E. Shirley, who lives with her daughter in Horton, Kansas; Capt. J. P. Grinstead, who was a soldier in the Mexican and Civil Wars and who died at Salem, this county; Judge V. H. Grinstead, an attorney, who lives at Liberal, Kansas; Mrs. Mary L. Stephens, deceased; Mrs. Hattie G. Harlin, who lives at Davy, Nebraska; Mrs. Betty C. Murray, who makes her home in El Paso, Texas; Mrs. Belle Nolan, deceased; Samuel, deceased, and one child, Mary, who died in infancy.

Robert E. Grinstead was reared on the home farm in Barren county, Kentucky, where he worked hard when a boy. He attended school in a log cabin and in 1864 cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, having been one out of thirteen in his county to vote the Republican ticket in that year. He always regretted his lack of educational opportunities in his youth and, seeing the need of a high school at Summershade, Kentucky, he erected a building there in 1876 to be used as a high school. The same year he was elected to the state Legislature from the county in which he then lived. He introduced a bill to abolish the manufacture and sale of liquor within one mile of the school house which he had built, and it became a law, and today there is not a saloon in Metcalf county, Kentucky, his work against the liquor traffic there in the early days having thus had a far-reaching effect. He has always been an ardent Prohibitionist and has done much for the cause.

As a boy Robert E. Grinstead learned surveying under his father and in 1860 became county surveyor of Metcalf county, Kentucky. He had surveyed thousands of acres for the public domain. About 1876 he went to Texas. From there he intended to go to southern Kansas, but a friend advised him to go to southeastern Nebraska, for the blue grass grew better



there. This was inducement enough and he removed to Richardson county and bought a farm south of Dawson, but later moved four miles south of Humboldt, where he made some extensive improvements, including the setting out of a fine grove of catalpa trees and pecan trees and Chincopin oaks, the first of the kind in the state. He also planted Ohio blue ash trees. Growing on his farm are the only pecan trees in Nebraska. Hard maple trees which he planted are now yielding sap. He also set out other varieties of trees. He became one of the leading farmers of that locality and also handled large numbers of live stock. He took an active interest in public affairs and was soon a leader in his party in this section of the state. In 1882 he was elected representative to the Legislature from Richardson county on the Republican ticket and was one of the leading members of the sessions of 1882 and 1883, doing much for the good of his county, as well as for the general good of the state. He was also several times elected county surveyor of Richardson county. He surveyed the Iowa Indian Reservation in Nebraska and Kansas for the government, into forty-acre tracts and re-established the southeast corner of the state of Nebraska. He was regarded as one of the most expert surveyors ever in this section of the United States, was one of the five men appointed to survey the drainage ditch in Richardson county and became its drain commissioner, acting superintendent of all the work on this ditch, which was quite an extensive undertaking. As a public servant, Mr. Grinstead always performed his work in an able, faithful and conscientious manner, in a way that rejected much credit upon himself, and to the eminent satisfaction of all concerned.

In 1891 Mr. Grinstead moved to Salem, where he continued to reside until 1915, when he moved to Bethany, Nebraska, and in 1916 he located in Lincoln, where he now resides. In partnership with his son, Philip, and son-in-law, Prof. R. L. Hoff, he owns a ranch at Alliance, Nebraska, containing twenty-nine hundred acres in all and known as the "Black Root Ranch." He is vice-president and treasurer of the company; his son is president, and Professor Hoff is secretary. They operate this great ranch on an extensive scale, and are raising great quantities of grain and live stock, besides maintaining a large dairy herd.

On December 28, 1865, Robert E. Grinstead was married to Fannie Pool, who was born on November 22, 1840, near Edmonton, Kentucky, a daughter of John and Eliza (Wren) Pool, natives of Virginia, and to this union five children have been born, namely: Philip W., formerly a teacher in the Fremont, Norfolk and Salem schools, now an attorney of Louisville, Kentucky, who married Irene Reed, a native of Kentucky; Pool, who is now

deceased, who was at one time owner and editor of the Salem (Nebraska) *Index*, the Morrill (Kansas) *News*, and the Wathena (Kansas) *Star*, who died in St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1912; Robert, former surveyor of this county, for twenty years a soldier now a major in the United States Army, stationed at Syracuse, New York, and who during the Spanish-American War was captain of a company in the Twenty-third Infantry, being promoted to the rank of major of the Fiftieth Infantry Regiment; Emma, wife of Prof. R. L. Hoff, of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Dr. Wren J. Grinstead, who is a professor in the State Normal School at Richmond, Kentucky. Dr. Grinstead was graduated from the Kenton State University with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and received the degree of Master of Arts from the State University of Kentucky, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the State University at Madison, Wisconsin.

The history of the Grinstead family shows that they have been inclined toward professional life, especially those of the last two generations, and they are playing well their parts in their respective walks of life. The children of the subject of this sketch received excellent educational advantages.

Fraternally, Mr. Grinstead is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a man of fine personal characteristics, has become well informed as a result of wide miscellaneous home reading and close observation and has a host of friends wherever he is known.

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### LOUIS J. SEGRIST.

It matters little what vocation a man may select as his life occupation as long as it is an honorable one. If he is an honest, upright man, courteous in his intercourse with his fellow men, and possessed with the average amount of energy and business sagacity, he is bound to make his business a financial success. Louis J. Segrist, formerly a resident of Richardson county, but now owner and manager of the Lincoln Tire and Repair Company, in the city of Lincoln, evidently possesses the above mentioned requirements.

Mr. Segrist was born in Richardson county, this state, April 25, 1875, a son of J. C. and Susannah (Simon) Segrist. The father was born on February 21, 1847, in Bremen, Germany, from which country he came to America when young and is now living at Humboldt, this county, where he



is engaged in the furniture busniess, in partnership with A. H. Fellers. He was twelve years old when he left his native land with his mother and stepfather, who located in Illinois. In the fall of 1874, J. C. Segrist came to Nebraska and began farming in Porter precinct, Richardson county, where he resided until 1882, when he left the farm and moved to Humboldt, where he has since resided. His wife was born in Maryland, July 5, 1849. To their union eight children were born, three of whom are now deceased; the five living, besides Louis J., the subject of this sketch, who is the eldest, being as follow: Della, wife of I. Sheirley, a merchant of Humboldt; George who lives in Sioux City, Iowa, a salesman for the packing plant of Swift & Company, Chicago; Anna, wife of E. C. Colhapp, of Lincoln, a clerk for a clothing company, and Mrs. Mabel Beurstetta, a widow, who also lives in Lincoln.

Louis J. Segrist was reared on the home farm in Franklin precinct, this county, and assisted with the general work of the farm when he became of proper age. He received his early education in the district schools there. As a young man he engaged in farming for himself, renting the home place from his father for nine years. He continued general farming and stock raising successfully until 1904, when he bought out the M. E. Linn & Son lumber yard at Humboldt, continuing in that line with very gratifying results until 1911, when he turned his attention to the automobile business, becoming associated with the Slama & Davis Company. On April 17, 1914, he moved to Lincoln, where he bought out a tire and repair business at 124 South Fifteenth street, which he is now conducting under the firm name of the Lincoln Tire and Repair Company, carrying a large and complete stock of tires and tubes, and does a large business both in the sales and repair departments. He was also one of the organizers of the T. & H. Oil Company of Ottawa, Kansas, and is vice-president of the company, which is a very thriving concern, this venture having met with great success. Sixteen wells are in operation, producing large quantities of oil. It is a one-hundred-thousand-dollar corporation. Mr. Segrist also owns one thousand acres of valuable land in South Dakota, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Kansas, besides property in the city of Lincoln. He is a man of rare business acumen and foresight, possessing sound judgment, perseverance and courage. He is also a man of sound business principles, honest and straightforward in all his dealings with his fellow men.

On January 12, 1898, Louis J. Segrist was married to Fannie May Reynolds, who was born in Princeton, Illinois, a daughter of I. M. Reynolds of Humboldt. Her mother is now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Segrist

two children have been born, Dale and George, both at home with their parents.

Mr. Segrist is an independent voter. While living at Humboldt he served as a member of the city council for many years, and while living on the farm in Franklin precinct, he served as precinct treasurer. He is a genial and companionable gentleman, who makes and retains friends wherever he goes.

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### HON. ARCHIBALD JERARD WEAVER.

The deeds of truly successful men live after them; a life filled with usefulness and which has been devoted to the accomplishment of something worth while to a people is one which never dies. Although several years have elapsed since the departure of the late Judge Archibald Jerard Weaver from the midst of earthly things—he yet lives in the hearts and minds of those who knew him. His career as a jurist and statesman left an impression upon the historical annals of Richardson county and Nebraska which time can never efface and which is destined to endure as long as the state itself. His life work was crowned with success; well educated, vigorous, a strong man mentally and physically, he made his advent into this growing community at a period when statesmen of his type and mold were needed to assist in shaping the destiny and guiding the activities of the commonwealth in the right direction. As a member of the constitutional conventions of 1871 and 1875, he gave evidence to his constituents that he was possessed of ability of a high order, and while still the presiding judge of the first judicial district of Nebraska, he was called by the people of his district to represent them in the halls of the national Congress, as their representative. Here he displayed statesmanship of a pronounced order. Death called him at the zenith of his career, while still in the prime of his useful life. Judge Weaver set an example of right living, uprightness of achievement, and progressiveness which has been emulated by his progeny. This memoriam will serve to commemorate for all time to come the story of the life and deeds of this illustrious Nebraskan.

Archibald Jerard Weaver was born at Dundaff, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, April 15, 1843, and was a son of Abram Weaver, a native of Germany, who left his native land when a youth and settled in Pennsylvania, there marrying Chloe Coddington, who bore him six children, Andrew J., Arvilla, Amanda, Ann, Abram and Archibald J. The senior Abram Weaver







A. W. W. W.





*Martha A Weaver*





died in 1845 and the bereaved mother was left in poor circumstances, with six children to rear to manhood and womanhood. The early life of Archibald J. Weaver was thus one of hardship and penury and he knew not the luxurious upbringing of the younger generation of the present day. When a small boy he earned his way by doing chores and hoeing potatoes, while attending the village school. After his father's death he made his home with an elder brother for several years and was generally industrious, willingly performing the tasks allotted him in return for his "keep" and schooling. By the strictest economy he saved his small earnings and came into possession of a colt which, when sold, assisted materially in defraying his expenses at Wyoming Seminary, at Kingston, Pennsylvania. While a student in the seminary his roommate was Doctor Sprague, the present head of Wyoming Seminary. He and the future instructor were in the habit of playing boyish pranks upon their schoolmates when opportunity afforded and the mood seized them. One of these practical jokes, which the judge loved to relate at a later day, was occasion of "watering" the supply of milk, the boys doing this by milking the seminary cow and then filling the milk pail with water. They enjoyed very much the complaints of the student body because of the weak condition of the beverage. At this famous school Archibald Weaver met the girl who was destined to play an important part in the molding of his later matured life, in the person of Miss Martha A. Myers, a student in the seminary, daughter of one of the oldest and most influential families of the Wyoming valley. A warm friendship ripened into love, which later culminated in a happy marriage. Mr. Weaver studied for three years in Wyoming Seminary and, upon a vacancy occurring in the faculty through the resignation of a professor, he was tendered the position and filled the post for three years.

Archibald J. Weaver's ambition was to become a lawyer, and in keeping with this laudable desire he entered the law office of Henry Hoyt at Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania. His preceptor later became governor of Pennsylvania. After studying for some months under the tutorship of Mr. Hoyt he entered Harvard Law School, studied one year and again resumed his studies with Mr. Hoyt. He finally returned to Harvard University from which he was graduated in due time and, in January, 1869, was admitted to the practice of law in Boston, Massachusetts. His intention at the time of his admission to practice had been to locate in Boston, and there practice his profession. The lady he married in 1867, however, and the fact that a brother-in-law, Charles Steele, had located in Nebraska, had their influence in deciding his later course in favor of coming to the great West and there growing up

with the new country. The wisdom of this decision was justified by subsequent events and the entrance of the future judge almost immediately into the civic and political life of the young state of Nebraska was prophetic in its significance, and Richardson county and Nebraska were made richer by his coming. The party crossed the country by railroad to St. Joseph, Missouri, thence by steamboat to Rulo, Nebraska, from which river point they drove to Falls City in April of 1869. Mr. and Mrs. Weaver were both impressed with the wonderful natural beauty of the country through which they rode and were likewise pleased with the evident richness of the country—a fact which later induced Mr. Weaver and his wife to invest in Richardson county farm lands, thus laying the foundation for the present fortunes of the family. The future judge bought a farm at Falls City and, during his first summer he suffered much from fever, but established a law office in the embryo city situated upon the prairies north of the Nemaha and success seemed to come to him from the start. Being gifted with a winning personality and his powers of leadership impressing themselves upon the people of the growing community he was selected as a member of the constitutional assembly in 1871, just two years after his advent into the county. He distinguished himself at the sessions of this assembly and a year later was elected district attorney, a position which he held for two successive terms. In 1875 he was again a member of the state constitutional convention and did excellent work in behalf of the people of the commonwealth in assisting in framing wise and beneficent laws for the government of coming generations. His next official preferment was that of judge of the first judicial district of Nebraska, a position which he held for two terms in succession, resigning his high office to take a seat in the Congress of the nation, having been elected representative from this district in 1882. During his term in Congress Judge Weaver was a member of the important committee which framed the interstate commerce law and provided for the commission which has played such an important part in the regulations of the vast interstate commerce which has developed in these latter decades. He was re-elected to Congress in 1884, his official term of office expiring in March, 1887. Not long after this he was seized with pneumonia and died on April 18, 1887, after a few days illness.

On September 10, 1867, Judge Weaver was united in marriage to Martha A. Myers, and to this union the following children were born, namely: Archibald J., who died at the age of two years; Harriet Blanche, who died at the age of four years; Mrs. Ruth M. Dennis, widow of Prof. David X. Dennis, of New Jersey, who was principal of the Falls City high school



and who died at Salt Lake City, Utah, while engaged in educational work, and left two children, David, an orchardist, of Falls City, who married Alma Barton, and Ruth M., wife of Walter J. Lewis, of Pasadena, California, and mother of one child, Evelyn Louise; Arthur J. Weaver, banker and farmer, of Falls City, who married Maude Hart and is the father of four children, Maude Harriet, Dorothy Jane, Arthur, Jr., and Ruth Jean; Lawrence M., Spokane, Washington, orchardist in the Yakima valley, who married Lydia C. Crowell and is the father of seven children, Polly, a graduate of the Spokane high school; Persis, Mary Elizabeth, John, Margaret, Robert and Priscilla, and Paul B. Weaver, an extensive farmer, lawyer and orchardist, of Falls City, who married Anna Crook and is the father of seven children, Bennett, Archibald Jackson, Mary, Martha, and Lawrence, Christobel and Doris.

The mother of the foregoing children, Mrs. Martha A. (Myers) Weaver, was born in Kingston, near Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, April 25, 1841, a daughter of Madison F. and Harriet Myers. Madison F. Myers was born on February 24, 1810, and died on August 2, 1859. His wife, Harriet Myers, was born on December 10, 1807, and died on May 2, 1889. They were united in marriage on May 23, 1833. Both of Mrs. Weaver's parents were members of old American families. Madison F. Myers, her father, was born at Utica Mills, Maryland, a son of Michael Myers, who was a son of Michael Myers, a native of the Rhine province, Germany, who emigrated to America in 1760. Michael Myers, the first, became a squire in the new country of his adoption and was a prominent and energetic figure in the early life of the region where he made a settlement. He had four sons, Lawrence, Philip, Henry and Michael. Philip Myers married Martha Bennett, born in Rhode Island, a daughter of Thomas Bennett, a famous patriot and Indian fighter of pre-Revolutionary days. It is recorded in the annals of the Wyoming valley that Thomas Bennett, together with his son, Andrew, and a Mr. Hammond, was captured by a band of savage Indians, with whom the settlers of the Wyoming valley were in almost ceaseless warfare for many years. They were taken far into the fastnesses of the wilderness and were bound in the camp of the Indians and held for possible torture and a slow lingering death, in keeping with the tastes of their savage captors. In the evening after their captors had feasted and were lying gorged and stupidly asleep before a blazing campfire, Thomas Bennett succeeded in loosening his bonds, killed the guard with a spear and used a gun and a tomahawk on the others. Hammond seized an ax lying within reach, laid about him lustily, and Bennett and Hammond in less than two minutes, killed all of the Indians

excepting two or three who managed to make their escape, although severely wounded. The tale of Thomas Bennett's mighty prowess has survived to this day and is yet told about the firesides of his descendants in the Wyoming valley. The members of the Myers family alike distinguished themselves in the long struggle with savage red men, and even the women were noted for their bravery in those fearsome times when the lives of the white settlers were unsafe. Andrew Bennett, son of Thomas Bennett, fought in the War of 1812. Michael Myers II, married Elizabeth Fouts. He and Lieutenant Lawrence Myers and Philip Myers both served in the Revolutionary War on the Maryland line and fought at the battles of Germantown. Lawrence Myers, after settling in the Wyoming valley, served as a state deputy sheriff for some years. The children of Madison F. and Harriet Myers were as follow: Martha Josephine, deceased; Elizabeth, born on September 8, 1836, who died on October 1, 1836; Thomas Jefferson, deceased; Miranda, who came to Falls City, the wife of Charles Steele, an early settler of Richardson county, and who died on February 27, 1890, an artist and landscape painter of ability, who gave painting lessons to the people of Falls City; Philip, who died on February 13, 1878, at the age of thirty-eight years; Martha A., widow of Judge Weaver, subject of this memorial review; John Summerfield, who died in infancy; Frederick B., who died on January 16, 1906, in Pennsylvania; William P., who died on January 17, 1905, at Falls City, and Jennie Lind, who died on March 9, 1854. Mrs. Martha A. Weaver resides in the home place of the Weaver family in Falls City and is a remarkably well preserved and intelligent woman, who takes a keen interest in affairs of the day and loves to dwell upon the reminiscent and tell of the by-gone days when she and her young husband came to Falls City to began life in the great and growing Western country. Mrs. Ruth Dennis, her daughter, makes her home with Mrs. Weaver. In her younger days the literary ability of Mrs. Weaver found frequent expression in poetical composition of real merit. Mrs. Weaver, in the course of several years, wrote many interesting and expressive poems, which are contained in a volume and are indicative of decided literary talent.

The late Judge Weaver was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He practiced the Christian virtues and was a thoroughly honest, clean-living individual, who was possessed of a force and strength of character and dominating will power which elevated him to the front ranks of his fellow citizens soon



after his advent into Falls City. He was a forceful and convincing public speaker, who carried his audience by the clearness of his diction and the force of a strong personality. Being a scholar and student he was gifted with the power to express his thoughts clearly and forcibly.

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### WILLIAM G. NIEMEYER.

William G. Neimeyer, proprietor of a well-kept farm of one hundred and twenty acres in section 24 of the precinct of Ohio, this county, was born in that same precinct and has lived there all his life. He was born on November 4, 1869, son of William and Dora (Kuphe) Niemeyer, natives of Germany, who came to Richardson county about 1866, becoming pioneers of the east central part of the county, and here spent the remainder of their lives, their last days being spent in Falls City.

Upon coming to this county the elder William Niemeyer first settled in the precinct of Arago, but presently moved over to the neighboring precinct of Ohio and there established his home in a log cabin, one of the real pioneers of that part of the county. He broke up his land with oxen and during the grasshopper scourge made a fight against the insect pests by constructing large pans, partially filled with coal oil, which he dragged through the fields scooping up the "hoppers," which were thus destroyed by their immersion in the oil. He was a good farmer and became one of the well-to-do landowners of that section. After their children were all married and "doing for themselves," he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Falls City, where he died in 1908, eight or nine years after his retirement, his widow surviving him for three or four years. They were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, he having an elder brother, Charles, of East Muddy precinct, this county; a sister, Alvenia, wife of Gustav Leopold, of Falls City, and another brother, Henry Niemeyer, of the precinct of Ohio.

Reared on the farm on which he was born, William G. Niemeyer received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and from the days of his boyhood was a valued aid to his father in the labors of improving and developing the home place, remaining at home until his marriage at the age of twenty-five years, when he established his home on the place on which he is now living, renting the same from his father, and at the death of the latter became inheritor of the same. Mr. Niemeyer has made extensive and sub-

stantial improvements on his place and has an excellent farm plant, his tract of one hundred and twenty acres being well improved and profitably cultivated. He has a pleasant home and he and his family are very comfortably situated.

In 1893 William G. Niemeyer was united in marriage to Ida Batrum, who also was born in this county, in 1873, daughter of Albert and Paulina (Hepfinger) Batrum, natives of Germany and early settlers in Richardson county, and to this union seven children have been born, Ernest, Rosa, Herman, Amelia, Henry, Emma and August. The eldest daughter, Rosa, married Charles O'Hara and is now living in South Dakota. Amelia married Jacob O. Zimmerman and lives at home. The Niemeyers are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and take an interested part in church work, as well as in other neighborhood good works and in the general social activities of the community in which they live. Politically, Mr. Niemeyer is a Democrat.

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#### HENRY P. PITTOCK.

The late Henry P. Pittock, who for many years was successfully engaged in the restaurant business at Falls City and who died there in 1910, was a native of England, but had been a resident of this country since he was eighteen years of age. He was born on March 14, 1858, at Deal, in Kent, son of William E. and Elizabeth (Hicks) Pittock, also natives of England, the former of whom later became a grocer in the city of London and who spent their last days in that city. William E. Pittock and wife were the parents of six children, of whom three came to this country, those besides the subject of this memorial sketch to come here having been Mrs. Emma Lass, who died in Galesburg, Illinois, and Mrs. Mary A. Parsons, who is now living at Quincy, in that same state.

Reared in his native England, Henry P. Pittock received his schooling there and remained there until he was eighteen years of age, when he came to this country to make his home with his sister in Illinois. Not long afterward he went to Salina, Kansas, and attended school, going from there to Seneca, Kansas, where he learned the baker's trade and where he remained until 1874, in which year he came up into Nebraska and engaged in the restaurant business at Falls City. He married the next year and established his home in Falls City, where he spent the rest of his active life, a successful business man. In addition to his restaurant business, Mr. Pittock also con-



ducted an extensive gardening business in the vicinity of Falls City. He was a member of the Methodist church, as is his widow, who still makes her home at Falls City and was a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His death occurred at Lincoln, Nebraska, on January 7, 1910.

On March 14, 1875, about a year after locating at Falls City, Henry P. Pittock was united in marriage to Alice C. Elwell, who was born at Knoxville, Illinois, March 17, 1855, daughter of Abraham and Martha (Elwell) Elwell, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of Ohio, who later became residents of this county and the latter of whom is still living here, making her home with her widowed daughter, Mrs. Pittock. Abraham Elwell was born in Union county, Indiana, May 18, 1827, son of Abraham and Esther (Coomes) Elwell, natives of New Jersey, the former of whom was born in Salem county, that state, August 5, 1790, and the latter, in that same county, May 28, 1797. The senior Abraham Elwell died on his farm in the vicinity of Knoxville, Illinois, March 12, 1880, and his widow survived him a little more than seven years, her death occurring on that same farm in July, 1887. The junior Abraham Elwell was reared on a farm and on February 28, 1849, at Columbus, Ohio, was married to Martha Elwell, who was born on a farm in the neighborhood of Dayton, Ohio, December 18, 1831, daughter of John H. and Nancy (Smith) Elwell, natives of New Jersey, the former born in Salem county, that state, in 1797, and the latter, January 3, 1806. Both John H. Elwell and his wife died in Ohio in 1860, the death of the latter occurring on September 24 of that year. After his marriage in Ohio, Abraham Elwell moved to Indiana and thence to Illinois. In 1859 he, in company with several other young men, started overland by ox-team for Pike's Peak and the gold country of the West, but when he reached Nebraska City he decided that he had had enough of the trail and made up his mind to seek a home in the Nebraska country. With that end in view he came south and in Richardson county traded his oxen and outfit for eighty acres of land one mile east of the present site of Falls City, Salem then being the county seat, and in the latter village he received the deed to his land. He then returned to his home in Illinois, where he remained until 1868, in which year he returned to this county with his family. Upon his arrival here he sold his original "eighty" and bought a tract west of Salem, the place on which his daughter, Mrs. A. L. Stettler, now lives, and there established his home, becoming a substantial pioneer farmer. He later became the owner of a quarter section of land near Chester, now owned by his son, J. E. Elwell; an "eighty" near Valley Falls, Kansas, and eight building lots in

Falls City. Mrs. Pittock now owns the Kansas "eighty," besides her comfortable home in Falls city. Abraham Elwell died on August 9, 1909, and his widow is now making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Pittock.

To Henry P. and Alice C. (Elwell) Pittock five children were born, namely: William E., now a resident of Malden, Massachusetts; Asa E., now a resident of Alaska; Mrs. Elizabeth G. Thompson, of Scotts Bluff, this state; Mrs. Myrtle A. Heddon, living near Burbank Washington, and Dr. Harry J. Pittock, a graduate of the Falls City high school and of the Omaha Medical College, who is now practicing his profession at the State Hospital, Hastings, Nebraska. Mrs. Pittock is a member of the Methodist church and has for years taken an earnest interest in church work, as well as in other local good works.

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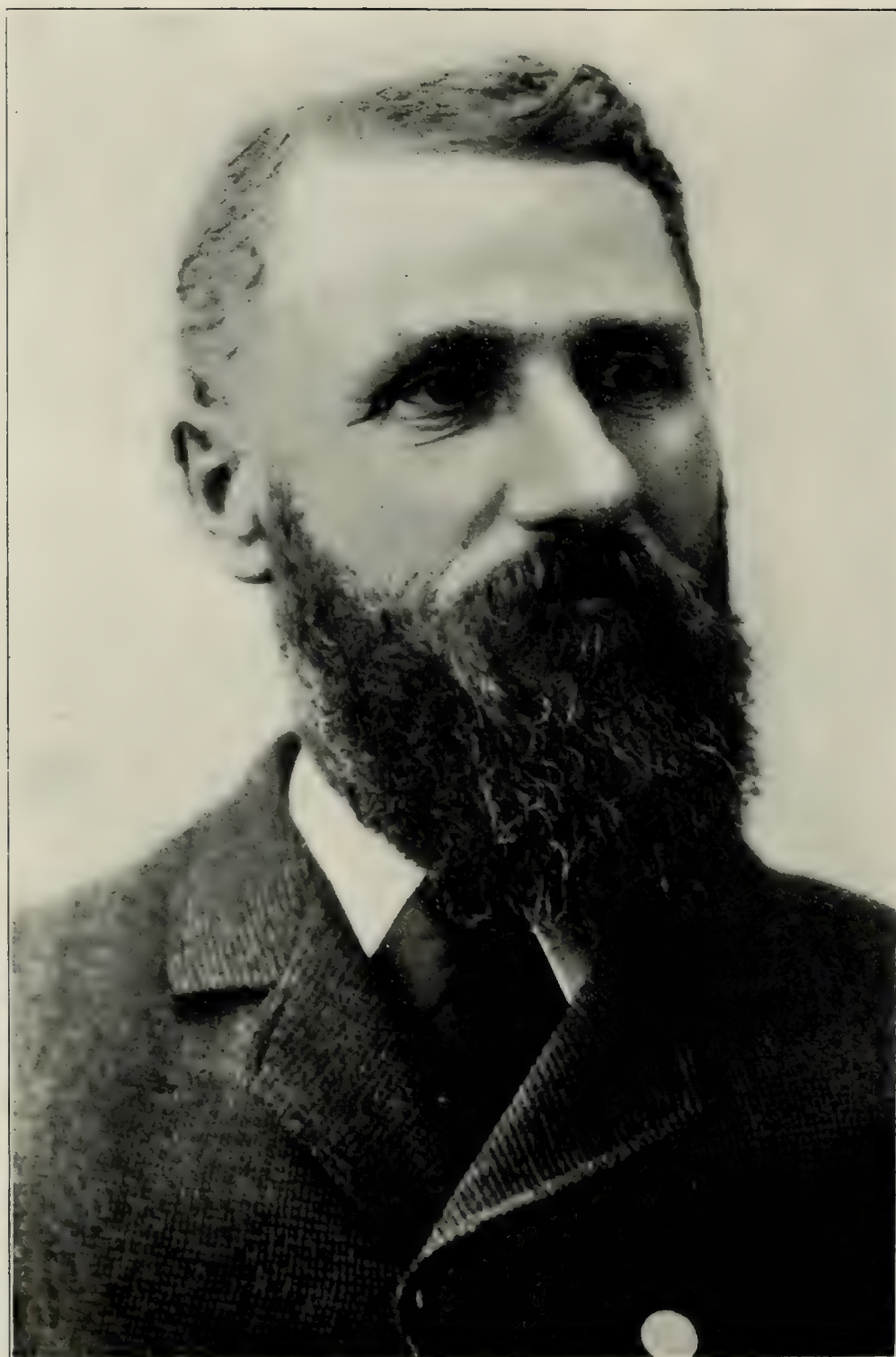
#### HON. HUGH QUIGLEY STAVER.

In the memorial annals of Richardson county there are few names held in better memory than that of the late Hon. Hugh Quigley Staver, one of the pioneers of this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War, former representative from this district in the Nebraska Legislature, for years one of the leading farmers and stockmen of the precinct of Salem and at the time of his death at Salem on September 6, 1897, coroner of Richardson county. Captain Staver had a very comfortable home at Salem and his widow is still living in that city, one of Richardson county's best-known old settlers and highly esteemed pioneers.

Hugh Quigley Staver was born on a farm in Pine Creek township, Clinton county, Pennsylvania, May 3, 1837, and was of German stock. He grew to manhood in his native county, receiving his schooling there, and remained at home until after he had attained his majority, when, in 1859, he located at Freeport, Illinois, where he was living when the Civil War broke out. On April 11, 1861, at Freeport, Mr. Staver enlisted in response to the President's first call for volunteers to suppress the rebellion of the Southern states and went to the front as a private in Company A, Eleventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. At the end of the three-months service he re-enlisted in that same command and served with the same until in November, 1863. Upon receiving his honorable discharge he enjoyed a month of respite from arms and then on January 8, 1864, re-entered the service and was appointed first lieutenant of Company K, Sixth Regiment, United States Heavy Artillery (colored), was soon promoted to the captaincy







HON. HUGH Q. STAVER.





MRS. ELLEN P. STAVER.





of the same, and continued with that command until finally mustered out in 1867. During this long period of service Captain Staver served under Generals Grant, Prentice, Logan, Gresham, McPherson, Sherman, Canby and Howard and participated in some of the most important battles and engagements of the war, including those of Ft. Henry, Ft. Donelson, Champion's Hill and Shiloh, and received wounds at Ft. Donelson and at Shiloh. He was regarded as a brave and excellent soldier and officer and had the respect and confidence of his superior officers and the admiration and loyalty of his men.

Upon the completion of his military service Captain Staver returned to Illinois, bought a team and outfit and in that same year drove over into the then territory of Nebraska and bought a quarter-section of land in section 1 of the precinct of Salem, in this county, at the same time buying a nearby tract of timber land, and after his marriage in the following February established his home on that farm, remaining there until his retirement from the active labors of the farm in 1888 and removal to the village of Salem, where he spent his last days in comfortable retirement. Captain Staver was a good farmer and a successful stockman and developed a fine piece of property in Salem precinct, his place being widely noted as one of the best-improved farms in the county and much admired by reason of its fine hedge fences, productive orchards and general appearance of thrift, the well-kept farm plant displaying many evidences of the good taste of its owner and his wife. Captain Staver was ever a loyal Republican and from the very beginning of his residence in this county was regarded as one of the leaders of that party in this part of the state. In 1884 he was elected to represent this district in the state Legislature and served with distinction in the House during the session of 1885, in his service in the general assembly making a splendid record, becoming widely known throughout the state. In 1887 he removed to Salem. In 1891 the captain was appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of coroner of Richardson county and by successive re-elections was retained in that office until his death in 1897.

On February 6, 1868, but a few months after his arrival in Richardson county, Captain Staver was united in marriage to Ellen P. Tisdell, who was born in the neighborhood of Madison, in Lake county, in the northeastern part of Ohio, March 24, 1850, daughter of Thomas A. and Lois Day (Gill) Tisdell, the former a native of the state of Connecticut and the latter of Massachusetts, and both of whom died before their daughter, Ellen, was three years of age. Thomas A. Tisdell and his wife were both of old New England

stock. The first of the Tisdels in this country came from Lancashire, England, and settled in Connecticut, about the year 1700. Thomas A. Tisdel was born in Wellington, that state, September 13, 1809, and his wife, Lois Day Gill, was born at West Springfield, Massachusetts, January 24, 1820. After their marriage they located on a farm in the vicinity of Madison, Ohio, not far from the shores of Lake Erie, and there Thomas A. Tisdel devoted the remainder of his active life to farming and stock raising, his death occurring there on October 5, 1852. His widow survived him a little less than a month, her death occurring on November 3 of that same year. Thus bereft of her parents before she was three years of age, Ellen Tisdel was cared for in the household of her brother-in-law, James Leverett, and it was thus that when nine years of age, in 1859, she came to the then territory of Nebraska with the Leveretts and became a pioneer of Richardson county. The family made the last stage of their trip by steamer to Rulo and then drove over to the Salem settlement, where they established their home. At that time Indians still were numerous hereabout and the friendly redskins took a warm interest in the little "pale-face" girl from the East and were openly complimentary in their remarks regarding her beautiful hair. Ellen Tisdel continued her schooling here, attending the early "subscription" schools, until she was twelve years of age, when she returned East with the Tisdels and completed her schooling in Madison Seminary and at Willoughby Collegiate Institute, in Lake county, Ohio, and then began teaching school. After teaching a couple of terms in her native state she taught a term in Wisconsin and then in the fall of 1867 returned to Salem, this county, where she was living at the time of her marriage to Captain Staver.

To Capt. Hugh Q. and Ellen P. (Tisdel) Staver eight children were born, namely: Aline, deceased; Flora, who married Wilson Vincent and is now living at Albuquerque, New Mexico; Edith E., wife of Leon Barnes, of the precinct of Salem, this county; Walter T., of Lincoln, this state; Carrie Louise, wife of Dr. Robert Henderson, of Rulo, this county; Ruth, deceased; Hattie B., deceased, and Mrs. Lena G. Dowell, who is living with her mother at Salem. Mrs. Staver is of Revolutionary descent and for some time was one of the active workers in the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at Falls City. Captain Staver was an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and ever took a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization. He was a Mason and was also affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias, taking an active interest both in Masonic and Pythian affairs.



## CHARLEY M. GEBHARD.

The well-known stock breeder, Charley M. Gebhard, of Liberty precinct, near Vernon, this county, is also one of our enterprising farmers. He was born on December 18, 1862, in Indiana, a son of Adam and Mary (Coons) Gebhard, who were the parents of ten children, the subject of this sketch being the sixth in order of birth. The father was born in Germany, from which country he immigrated to America when young, locating first in Indiana, where he remained until 1864, when he moved his family to Nebraska, settling in Arago precinct, this county. He later bought raw land in Barada precinct, which he improved into a good farm. He had learned the carpenter's trade in the old country, and he cut his own logs to build a cabin. He went through the usual pioneer hardships, but eventually became very comfortably established through his industry, the log cabin giving way to a substantial dwelling in due course of time. Here he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1901, at the age of eighty years. His widow died in 1903, at the age of seventy-three years.

Charley M. Gebhard grew up on the farm, working hard when a boy, like all sons of pioneers, and he attended the old-time district schools in Barada precinct. He remained with his parents on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when he began work for himself, engaging in general farming. In 1904 he purchased his present home farm, which then had no improvements except a house and barn, neither being very valuable. The place is now highly improved and on it now stands a modern home and numerous substantial outbuildings. Mr. Gebhard owns three hundred and twenty acres in all, the home place consisting of one hundred and sixty acres in section 1, Liberty precinct. He owns eighty acres in section 18 of Ohio precinct and eighty acres in section 12 of Liberty precinct. In connection with general farming, which he has conducted on an extensive scale, he has been engaged in breeding live stock since 1887—horses and mules. He has been a breeder of the famous "Mammoth" jacks, also a breeder of Belgian and Percheron horses. He formerly kept imported horses, keeping one Belgian horse nine years. At this writing he has three stallions, five jacks and five jennets. His fine stock is greatly admired by farmers and stockmen, owing to their superior qualities, and he has built up a large and lucrative business.

On October 6, 1886, Mr. Gebhard was married to Ella Bauer, a native of Illinois and a daughter of John and Mary (Kuckock) Bauer, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Caroline, who died in infancy;

Mrs. Mary B. Friedly, who lives in Ohio precinct; Minnie, the wife of Fred Allison, of Liberty precinct, and John, Bryan and Ferdinand, at home. Politically, Mr. Gebhard is a Democrat. He belongs to the Lutheran church.

The parents of Mrs. Gebhard were natives of Germany. Mr. Bauer was born on October 12, 1827, and died in 1906. He left his native land when a young man and immigrated to America. After spending some time in Illinois he made the overland trip in a covered wagon to Nebraska, locating on raw land in Ohio precinct, Richardson county, where, through his industry and perseverance he developed a good farm and established a comfortable home. He had married in Illinois. His wife was born in February, 1834, and died in 1881. To these parents fifteen children were born, eight of whom are living at this writing.

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#### DAVID DORRINGTON.

In the memorial annals of Richardson county there are no names held in better remembrance than those of David and Ann Dorrington, the first persons to establish a home on the site of Falls City when the townsite was laid out in 1857 and who have ever been cherished in the affectionate remembrance of the people of that place as "the father and mother of Falls City." David Dorrington was a building contractor and in that capacity performed a very substantial service in behalf of the new town in the early years of its development. He was an energetic, public-spirited citizen and from the very beginning of his residence at the site of the present county seat exerted his energies toward the fullest possible development of the place. For seventeen years, or until the accomplishment of the purpose of the villagers, he led the fight to have Falls City made the county seat and lived to see his pet project adopted by the people of the county. He was the third mayor of the town and also held other local offices, in the performance of his public duties ever preserving a high sense of his obligation to the community and doing all in his power to promote the best interests of the community. Intensely opposed to the institution of slavery, he was an ardent "Free-soiler" and upon the organization of the Republican party attached himself to that party and ever after remained a devoted and earnest advocate of the principles of the same. Forceful, aggressive and tireless in the advocacy of these principles, it is undoubted that he contributed more than did any other one person toward swinging Richardson county's vote to the Republican column in



1859, and he after held his place as one of the factors to be reckoned with in the political affairs of the county. Of the true pioneer type, David Dorrington possessed those distinctive personal qualities so essential to those who seek to subdue the wilderness and to lay the foundations for the coming community life, and these qualities were permanently impressed upon the community of which to this day he is recognized as having been the "father."

No less potent and forceful influence in the pioneer community in the days of the beginning of a social order hereabout was that exercised by Ann Dorrington, wife of David Dorrington, whose beneficent ministrations among the settlers endeared her to all within the ample radius of those ministrations. "Mother" Dorrington, as this gentle and cultured woman still is remembered by survivors of the pioneer band in this county, was a woman of refined cultural development of the same. Possessed of considerable knowledge of tastes and brought to the new community much that contributed to the early the simpler forms of the healing art and possessed also of a deeply sympathetic nature, she was a veritable "mother in Israel" in the pioneer neighborhood and for years ministered ably to the sick and dying—no reasonable distance being too great to deter her on these calls of mercy across the open prairie. Provided with a simple stock of medicinal agents and armed with a stout walking-stick for protection in possible case of need, "Mother" Dorrington visited the bedsides of the ailing pioneers, taking cheer and comfort wherever she went. She was no less an ardent Abolitionist than was her husband and in the days just preceding the outbreak of the Civil War the Dorrington stable, standing apart from the house, was one of the most helpful "stations" on the "underground railroad" then in active operation through this part of the country, while during the sixties many a wounded slave received food, shelter and raiment from her generous hand and was helped on his flight North. Before coming up into Richardson county the Dorringtons had for a time made their home down in Doniphan county, Kansas. One evening while "Mother" Dorrington was sitting alone in her cabin door she was approached by a travel-worn man who appealed to her for protection from the vengeance of a mob which he said was pursuing him. He assured her that he was innocent of the crime charged against him by his pursuers, but that it would be death to him if they overtook him, and asked her to provide him a hiding place. Convinced of the truth of the man's tale, Mrs. Dorrington gave him shelter and promised him her frail protection. In a short time the refugee's infuriated pursuers arrived at the Dorrington cabin and demanded to know of Mrs. Dorrington if a man had passed that way. "No," she replied. Not convinced by this answer, the men dismounted and

advanced with a view to entering the house and searching the premises. Seizing a kettle of boiling water that happened to be "handy," the intrepid pioneer woman stood in the doorway and cried: "I will scald the first man that attempts to cross my threshold!" Recognizing that her words were not a mere idle threat, the men discreetly withdrew and the hidden fugitive presently was enabled to go on his way rejoicing. Another instance of "Mother" Dorrington's courage, stoutness of heart and intrepidity of spirit may be cited. At the time the "Jayhawkers" were threatening to burn the village the situation seemed sufficiently serious to warrant the removal of the women and children to a point of greater security, but Mrs. Dorrington stoutly declined to be thus sent away, declaring that where her husband and sons were, there she would stay.

David Dorrington was a native of England, born in Hertfordshire on January 11, 1812. He received his schooling there and became a skilled carpenter and joiner, later locating at Hatfield, the country seat of the ancient family of the Cecils (Burleigh), and for some years thereafter was engaged as the head of the mechanical force engaged in remodeling Cecil hall and the mansion house. In the fall of 1839 he married and in 1842 came to the United States, locating at Whitesboro, in Oneida county, New York, where he continued his vocation as a building contractor until the year 1857, when he came West and settled in Doniphan county, in the then Territory of Kansas. In that same year he heard of the platting of the Falls City townsite, not far to the north of where he had settled, and on September 7, 1857, he arrived at the townsite, the only visible evidence of which at that time was the location stakes, and proceeded to erect a dwelling house on the place, thus becoming the first householder in the now progressive and populous city of Falls City. It was not long until other settlers became attracted to the townsite and as the first carpenter on the ground, Mr. Dorrington presently had his hands full of contracts. He not only was extensively engaged in the building way, but he became an investor in farm lands and was more or less active in other pursuits having to do with the development of this region and was early recognized as one of the leading men in this section of the then Territory of Nebraska. As noted in the introduction to this sketch, Mr. Dorrington was elected third mayor of the town and in other capacities represented the people in an official way, and was particularly active in his participation in the movement that eventually led to the establishment of the county seat at Falls City. He had become an Odd Fellow in 1844, while living in New York, and was one



of the movers in the raising of a lodge of that order in Falls City, having been a charter member of Falls City Lodge No. 13, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which was instituted on September 28, 1869. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dorrington spent the remainder of their lives in Falls City, ever useful and influential citizens of that place. "Mother" Dorrington died on June 26, 1879, and her husband survived her two days more than two years, his death occurring on June 28, 1881.

On September 15, 1839, at Middlesex, England, David Dorrington was united in marriage to Ann B. Wood, who was born in Essex county, England, and to that union were born six children, namely: Frederick M., who died at Alliance, Nebraska, January 28, 1903; George E., who died in 1910; John W., whose last days were spent at Yuma, Colorado; Annie M., widow of Judge Isham Reavis, of Falls City; William E., a retired banker, of Falls City and Kittie L., wife of Edwin S. Towle, of Falls City.

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### NATHANIEL D. AUXIER.

Nathaniel D. Auxier, county commissioner, farmer and stockman, owner of two hundred and eighty acres of excellent land in sections 26 and 35, Liberty precinct, this county, was born on June 21, 1861, in Johnson county, Kentucky. He is the son of Nathaniel and Hester (Mayo) Auxier, to whom thirteen children were born, namely: Samuel, deceased; George, deceased; Julia, who married James Cooley, of Prestonburg, Kentucky; Mrs. Martha Hager, Missouri; Mrs. Minta Friend, deceased; Andrew, deceased; Thomas, deceased; James B., deceased; Mrs. Angeline Layne, deceased; Louise, who died in infancy; Edward E., further reference to whom is made elsewhere in this work; Nathaniel, the subject of this sketch; and John David, who was killed in the battle of Salt Works, Virginia. George was also a soldier in the Civil War and was wounded in the course of an engagement in Tennessee.

The elder Nathaniel Auxier was a farmer and continued so engaged up to the time of his death at the age of fifty-three years. He was born in Johnson county, Kentucky, in 1812 and died in 1866, when the subject of this sketch was five years old. Mrs. Hester (Mayo) Auxier, born in Jackson county, Kentucky, died when forty-eight years old, her death occurring at the time her son, Edward E., was born in 1864, and when Nathaniel D. was three years old.

Nathaniel D. Auxier, who was but an infant when his father and mother died, was reared on a farm with his elder brothers and sisters and was educated in the district schools of his native state. When he had reached the age of twenty years, in 1881, he came to Richardson county and worked out for two months near Rulo. He taught school for a period of six years in this county, for one year in Kentucky and one year in Missouri. In 1887 Mr. Auxier bought eighty acres of land northeast of Verdon. Having improved the tract he continued to operate the same for nine years and then sold out in 1896. In the latter year he bought one hundred and twenty acres in section 18, Ohio precinct, which he farmed for ten years and sold in 1906. He then acquired his present farm of two hundred and eighty acres in sections 26 and 35, Liberty precinct. Since the purchase of this land Mr. Auxier has made considerable improvements and is engaged in general farming in which he has been quite successful, his agricultural methods being modern in all essential features. In addition to his farming operations he is also engaged in the breeding of Poland China hogs, and, as in his farming operations, he is equally successful in his hog raising.

On October 24, 1883, Nathaniel D. Auxier was united in marriage to Pheribe Prichard, daughter of Joseph and Caroline (Compton) Prichard, natives of Kentucky, who in 1865 came to Richardson county and settled in Arago township. Joseph Prichard died in 1914, at the age of seventy-seven years. His widow is now living in Falls City and is now in her seventy-eighth year. They were the parents of eight children.

To Mr. and Mrs. Auxier four children have been born, as follows: Walter T., a graduate of Verdon high school and now engaged helping his father on the farm; Elmer E., now living on the south eighty acres of his father's farm, married Edna Griffith and they are the parents of one child, a daughter, Alice; Maude, who died at the age of three years, and Ruth, at home, who was graduated from Salem high school.

Mr. Auxier is affiliated with the Democratic party and has been a consistent supporter of that party's principles for many years. Since January, 1917, he has been serving as county commissioner and in other ways he is interested in the welfare of his precinct and county. He is a member of the Christian church and has been elder in the same for some years. He also holds membership in the Ancient Order of United Workmen and in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Verdon and takes a keen interest in these fraternal organizations.



## MORRIS FRIEND.

Whenever an attempt is made to write the history of a successful enterprise or the worthy career of any man it has been found that ability, backed by energy and push, has been the basis of it all, and this fact cannot fail to impress itself upon the writer of history proper or that branch which consists of the biographies of those who have achieved sufficient distinction to make the record of their lives of interest to the public. Morris Friend, formerly one of the enterprising citizens of Richardson county, but now living in honorable retirement in the city of Lincoln, after a very successful business career, owes his success in life to his own fighting qualities—fighting ability that overcomes obstacles.

Morris Friend was born on February 11, 1859, in Alsace-Lorraine, a son of Simon and Mary (Levy) Friend. The father was born in Alsace-Lorraine, France, October 24, 1826, and his death occurred on March 24, 1899. The mother was born on January 1, 1829, and died on February 8, 1898. She was also a native of France. There these parents grew to maturity, attended school and married. They made their home in Alsace-Lorraine until 1886, when they immigrated to America and located at Humboldt, this county, but removed to Lincoln in 1889. The father lived in retirement after coming to America. To Simon Friend and wife nine children were born, seven of whom are living at this writing. Only two of them came with their parents to Nebraska, the other living children having preceded them to the United States. They were named as follow: Charles, who died in Europe in infancy; Mrs. Babette Spear, who died in Bennett, Nebraska; Sarah, who lives in Lincoln; Mrs. Nannie Sarbach, who lives in Nebraska City; Morris, the subject of this sketch; Pauline, who makes her home in Lincoln; Mrs. Mathilde Frosh, who lives in Lincoln; Gus, also a resident of that city, and Mrs. Alyne Levy, a resident of Hastings, Nebraska.

Morris Friend spent his boyhood in his native land and there received his education. He immigrated to America in 1876, coming on west to Atchison, Kansas, where he clerked in the general mercantile establishment of his uncle, L. Friend. He soon mastered the various ins and outs of this line of endeavor and in 1880 came to Nebraska and engaged in the general merchandise business for himself, at Humboldt, this county, in partnership with Albert Weiman, with whom he remained two years, at the end of which time he formed a partnership with Joseph Sarbach, his brother-in-law, later buying the latter's interest and continuing the business alone until 1893, when he

sold out and moved to Lincoln. He had been successful as a merchant and built up a large and satisfactory trade with the people of Humboldt and vicinity, always carrying an extensive and carefully-selected stock of goods. His store would have been a credit to a much larger town.

Upon locating in Lincoln, Mr. Friend turned his attention to a new line of business, directing the affairs of the Beatrice Creamery Company, of which he was the organizer and of which he was secretary for a period of fifteen years. Under his able management and perseverance this venture proved to be quite successful. He first devoted his time principally to the egg and produce business. He is still a stockholder and director of the creamery, but retired from active life in 1911, having accumulated a handsome competency through his earlier years of business, having proven to be a man of sound judgment and keen foresight. These qualities coupled with honesty, promptness and courtesy in dealing with his many customers, brought a large measure of material success and at the same time won the respect and good will of all with whom he came in contact. He owns a large acreage of valuable farm lands in Wyoming, Texas and Lancaster county, Nebraska, and is also a shareholder in a number of important corporations.

On January 19, 1886, Morris Friend was married at Atchison, Kansas, to Minnie Frank, a native of that city, where she grew up and attended school. She is a daughter of Leon and Matilda (Kohn) Frank, the former of whom was born in Bavaria, Germany, April 24, 1827, and who died on April 9, 1907. Mr. Frank grew up in his native land and there attended school and continued to reside until 1848, in which year a large number of his countrymen came to the New World, he being one of them. He located first in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the mercantile business. He came West in 1860, and settled in Atchison, Kansas, in pioneer days, and there he engaged successfully in the mercantile business until 1893, when he returned to Philadelphia, where his death occurred. His wife, Matilda Kohn, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, March 7, 1835, and she grew up and was educated in her native land. Her death occurred in Philadelphia on April 5, 1912.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Friend, namely: Mrs. Gertrude Gugenheim, who lives in Lincoln, where her husband is engaged in the clothing business, and Victor E. Friend, who lives at home, and is a sales manager for the Nebraska Material Company. Both children received excellent educational advantages. After passing through high school they attended the State University. Morris Friend owns a commodious and mod-



ern home at 1845 E street, Lincoln, and also a valuable business block at P and Tenth streets.

Mr. Friend is an independent voter, and has never been a seeker after political honors, preferring to devote his attention exclusively to his large business interests and to his family, being best contented when by his own fireside. Therefore, he has never been much of a clubman, but is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which order he has attained the thirty-second degree. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias and to the Independent Order of B'nai Brith. He has been a member of the Reformed church for twenty-four years, and is president of the board, and active in church affairs. He has always been a liberal supporter of the church. He is also charitably inclined, giving freely of his means to worthy causes, but always in a quiet way, avoiding publicity as much as possible. He has been treasurer of the local charity organization for the past fourteen years. He was one of the organizers of the Richardson County Association of Lincoln and has been president of the same since its organization. He is a member of the Lincoln Commercial Club, of which he was formerly a trustee and director. Mrs. Friend is an active worker in the Women's Club of Lincoln. They are both well known and popular in the best circles of Lincoln.

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### WASHINGTON SAILORS.

Washington Sailors, one of Richardson county's best-known and most substantial farmers and the proprietor of a fine farm of more than three hundred acres in the precinct of Barada, is a native of the old Hoosier state, but has been a resident of this county since he was five years of age and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days. He was born on a farm in Wabash county, Indiana, April 14, 1865, son of William H. H. and Mary E. (Miller) Sailors, both natives of that same state, who later became pioneers of Richardson county, where the former spent his last days and where the latter is still living, now a resident of the village of Barada.

William H. H. Sailors also was born in Wabash county, Indiana, April 9, 1837, son of George W. and Asenath (Scott) Sailors, natives of Pennsylvania and pioneers of Indiana, the former of whom died in Indiana in 1852, the latter some years afterward coming to Nebraska, her last days being spent in the western part of this state. George W. Sailors and wife

were the parents of eight children, of whom William H. H. was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: John T., deceased; James A., now a resident of Sioux county, this state, an honored veteran of the Civil War and who served for some time as a prisoner in the dreadful Confederate prison pen at Andersonville, Georgia; Winfield S., deceased; Mahala, who married M. Allison and is now deceased; Andrew J., of Hitchcock county, Nebraska; Lot G., of Thurston county, Nebraska, and George W., of Hitchcock county.

Reared on a pioneer farm in Wabash county Indiana, William H. H. Sailors there grew to manhood and married Mary E. Miller, who was born in the Connersville neighborhood in Fayette county, Indiana, February 12, 1843, daughter of George W. and Harriet (Bloomhardt) Miller, pioneers of that county, who were the parents of nine children, of whom Mrs. Sailors was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: Daniel, a veteran of the Civil War, now deceased; William T., also a veteran of the Civil War; Benjamin, who also served in behalf of the Union during the Civil War and is now living in Lincoln county, Kansas; Clara, who married J. Henderson and is now deceased; Hulda, wife of F. Saare, of Wichita, Kansas; Margaret, deceased; Lincoln, deceased; Florence, deceased, and one who died in infancy. Early in the spring of 1870, William H. H. Sailors left Indiana with his family and came to Nebraska, arriving in Richardson county on March 8 of that year, and settled on a farm in the precinct of Barada, where he established his home and was beginning to see his way clear to the development of a fine bit of farm property there when the grasshopper scourge swept over this region like a blight. He then would have gladly sold his place and got out of Nebraska, but there were no buyers at that time and he was compelled to "stick it out," which was a fortunate thing for him, for presently the plains began to smile and his operations prospered greatly. As he prospered he added to his holdings until he became the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres of land and was accounted one of the leading farmers and stockmen in that part of the county. Mr. Sailors was a staunch Republican and from the very beginning of his residence in this county took an active interest in local civic affairs for some time serving as a member of the board of county supervisors. He was a member of the Christian church, as is his widow, and also took a proper part in church work and other local good works. William H. H. Sailors died on December 5, 1909, and his widow is now making her home in the village of Barada, where she is very pleasantly situated. They were the parents of fourteen children of



whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: James T., of Barada precinct; Melissa, who married Robert Ankrom and is now deceased; Harriet, deceased; John H., of Barada precinct; Benjamin, deceased; Clara, deceased; Omër, of Barada precinct; Ida, wife of William Percival, also of the precinct of Barada; Lot, deceased; Fred, of Cedar county, this state; William, deceased; Pearl, deceased, and Otis B., of the precinct of Barada.

Washington Sailors was not quite five years of age when he came to this county with his parents in the spring of 1870 and his youth was spent on the pioneer home farm in the precinct of Barada, where he grew up thoroughly familiar with conditions that confronted the pioneer farmer here on the plains. After his marriage at the age of twenty-one years he rented a tract of land from his father and established his home on that portion of the old home place, where he has ever since continued to make his residence and where he has developed one of the best farm plants in that part of the county. In 1901 he bought a quarter section in section 9; when the estate was divided he inherited an "eighty," and he has added further to his holdings until now he is the owner of three hundred and nineteen acres of well-improved and profitably cultivated land in sections 22 and 9. He has a modern, nine-room house, a barn sixty-six by seventy feet in dimensions, and the other improvements on the place are in keeping with the same. Until 1894 Mr. Sailors gave considerable attention to the raising of live stock, but has since then given his chief attention to general farming and is doing very well. He is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

On March 1, 1887, Washington Sailors was united in marriage to Avalena Prine, who was born in the vicinity of Indianapolis, in Marion county, Indiana, daughter of James P. and Frances (Richardson) Prine, the former a native of the state of Pennsylvania and the latter of Marion county, Indiana, who came to Nebraska about 1881 and settled in Barada precinct, this county, where their last days were spent. James P. Prine and wife were the parents of five children, those besides Mrs. Sailors, the third in order of birth, being George B., of Adams county, this state; Emery B., of Pawnee county; William H., of Adams county, and one who died in infancy. To Washington and Avalena (Prine) Sailors have been born eleven children, all of whom are living save the eighth in order of birth, who died in infancy, the others being Guy, who is clerking in a store at Barada, and Harry, Ray, Frances, Benjamin, Ruth, Rena, Emery, Laura and Nettie. Mr. and Mrs. Sailors are

members of the Christian church and their children have been reared in that faith, the family taking a proper part in church work, as well as in other good works and in the general social activities of their home community.

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### FRED W. HEINEMAN.

Fred W. Heineman, manager of the Maust Elevator Company, also farmer and live-stock buyer, who resides at Verdon, this county, was born on July 18, 1861, in the principality of Waldeck, Germany, a son of Daniel and Louise (Kahn) Heineman, also natives of that country, where they grew up, married and established their home. They were parents of seven children, namely: Minnie, the wife of L. Schaffer, of Auburn, Nebraska; Henry, who lives on a farm a mile west of Verdon; Frederick W., the subject of this sketch; Charles H., a contractor, of Falls City; Louise, the wife of William Crouch, of Liberty precinct, this county; Lewis, who also lives in Liberty precinct, and Mary, the wife of F. Baller, of Exeter, Nebraska. Daniel Heineman, father of the above-named children, was born in Waldeck on November 18, 1824, and died on February 20, 1903. He left his native land in 1864, bringing his family to the United States, locating in Chicago; later moving to Carroll county, Illinois. About the time of the close of the Civil War he enlisted in the Union army, but never saw service. He was a stonemason by trade and followed that vocation for a livelihood throughout his active life. He came to Nebraska in 1872, locating near Falls City, where he continued working at his trade, later moving to Barada precinct, where his sons were farming. About 1887 he moved to Liberty precinct and his death occurred on the place now owned by Henry Heineman. The mother of the subject of this sketch was born in 1830 and died in 1913. She and her husband were members of the Lutheran church.

Fred W. Heineman was three years old when his parents brought him to America. He was reared on the farm in Richardson county receiving his education in the district schools, and has always engaged in farming. He purchased his first farm about 1895, paying fifty dollars an acre for the same, and is now owner of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable and productive land, one hundred and sixty acres in section 11 and one hundred and sixty acres in section 16 of Liberty township. He has been quite successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and his land is under a high state of cultivation and improvement. He has always been regarded as an exceptionally



good judge of live stock and has bought and shipped stock to the markets for many years. He is also manager of the Maust elevator at Verdon, which does a large annual business. Besides cattle and hogs he has also raised a good many horses from year to year. He moved to Verdon in 1910 and in February, 1917, began managing the elevator for the Albert Maust Elevator and Live Stock Company.

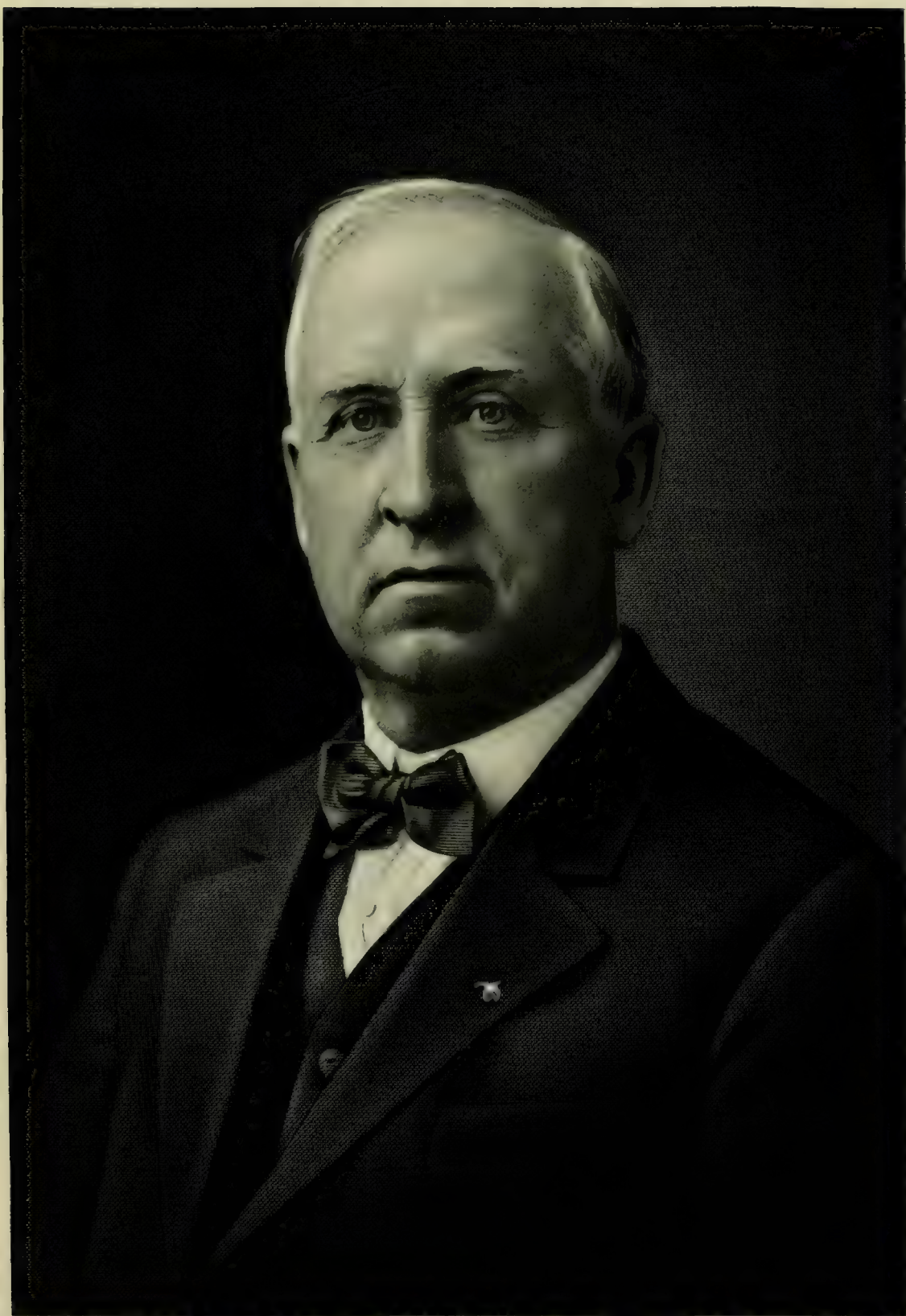
Mr. Heineman is a Democrat and has served on the town board of Verdon. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. He was married on August 17, 1886, to Lois Bowers, a daughter of Daniel Bowers. She was born near Canton, Ohio, in 1868, and came with her parents to this county when young. Mention of her family is made in the sketch of her brother, E. L. Bowers, appearing elsewhere in this work. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Heineman, namely: Meta, the wife of F. Porr, of Humboldt, this county, and Gorman, Roy and Keith, who are at home with their parents.

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#### HERMAN A. FISCHER.

Herman A. Fischer, proprietor of a well-kept farm of eighty acres in section 18 of Jefferson precinct, this county, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of Richardson county since he was seven years of age. He was born on November 4, 1875, son of Fred and Wilhelmina (Schmundt) Fischer, also natives of Germany, the latter of whom is still living, now a resident of Falls City, and who were the parents of six children, of whom two are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Hulda Peters, who is living in the precinct of Falls City. Fred Fischer was born in 1843 and grew up as a carpenter, working at the latter trade in his native land until the year 1882, when he came to the United States with his family and proceeded on out to Nebraska and settled in Richardson county. For some time after coming here he rented land, on which he engaged in farming, but after a while became owner of a farm of his own in Liberty precinct and at the time of his death in 1911 was the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres. His widow is now making her home in Falls City, where she is very comfortably situated.

As noted above, Herman A. Fischer was but seven years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1882 and he received his schooling in the local schools in the neighborhood of his new home, remaining at home and assisting his father in the work of the farm until he was twenty-six



Eng. by E. G. Williams 2 Nov. 1887

John H. Morehead





which the people of Nebraska have enjoyed since statehood was conferred upon them. His knowledge of men, his desire to give the people the best administration within his power, his proverbial honesty of purpose and pronounced ability of a high executive order, enabled him to make an enviable record as an able executive, whose every act indicated that he had the welfare of the commonwealth at heart. "From the Hills of Barada to the Governor's Chair," might be made the title of an interesting story for the inspiration of future generations of Richardson county young men.

Governor Morehead was born on a farm in Lucas county, Iowa, December 3, 1861, and is a son of Andrew and Frances (Cooper) Morehead, who were pioneer settlers in that section of the Hawkeye state. Andrew Morehead was a native of the old Buckeye state, born in 1822. He was reared to young manhood in Ohio and soon after his marriage he migrated to Lucas county, Iowa, and purchased a farm, upon which he resided until 1864, after which he spent a year in Ohio, returning to Iowa in 1865 and residing upon his land there until his death in 1889. Andrew Morehead became a leader among his neighbors and the people of his section of Lucas county, and filled the office of justice of the peace during his long residence in his adopted state. He was descended from old Scotch-Presbyterian stock, but upon locating in Iowa he became identified with the Christian Union denomination. In politics, Andrew Morehead was a Democrat. Seven children were born to Andrew and Frances Morehead, as follow: Charles, who is residing in the old home town of the family at Columbia, Iowa; Mrs. Elizabeth Dorrell, deceased; Ludlow Morehead, a retired farmer living at Barada, this county; William Morehead, a resident of Jefferson, Iowa; John Henry, the subject of this review; Mrs. Mary Duckworth, a widow living at Des Moines, Iowa, and Mrs. Lavina Smith, a resident of Garden Grove, Iowa. The mother of these children, Mrs. Frances Cooper Morehead, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, April 3, 1829, a daughter of Ludlow Cooper, a native of New York, and an early settler in Ohio, who fought in the War of 1812. She was descended from an old American family, her grandfather having fought in the army of independence during the Revolutionary War. Four brothers of Mrs. Frances Morehead fought in defense of the Union during the Civil War.

John H. Morehead was reared to young manhood on his father's farm in Lucas county, Iowa. In common with the children of the neighborhood, he attended the district school, walking a distance of two miles, the length of the school term varying during the winter from four to six months.



The little frame school house which the future governor attended was typical of the times and was furnished with slab benches fitted with pegs for support and no desks such as came at a later day. To this school he trudged daily during the cold winter months and secured such education as was obtainable in the primitive educational mill. After the district school, in keeping with the desires of his ambitious parents, he attended a select school at Knoxville, Iowa, until he attained the age of seventeen years, then attended a business college at Shenandoah, Iowa. Thus equipped and blessed with a good, strong constitution and body he set out for the West in search of fortune and imbued with the desire to make his own way in the world. His original intention had been to locate in western Nebraska, but having friends in Nemaha county, he tarried there for a while in order to make them a visit. His visit lengthened into a protracted stay and he obtained employment, teaching school in winter for a time and working as a farm hand in summer for a few years, in Nemaha county, the adjoining county to the north. After his marriage in 1885, he located in the town of Barada, in Richardson county, and engaged in the mercantile business with a small stock of goods and plenty of energy to make a success of the business. This town proved to be a splendid location for the store and, during the ten years in which Mr. Morehead was engaged in conducting his general store at that place the business grew and he managed to lay the foundation for his subsequent considerable fortune. He invested his surplus in farm land and branched out into the handling of live stock—a business in which he is still engaged, his first modest investments in land having been increased to a total of several hundred acres of land in Richardson county. His farm, just west of Barada, and which has Governor Morehead's personal supervision, is one of the most productive farming plants in Richardson county. The love of the soil and of mother nature having been deeply imbedded in his soul when a youth he maintains a keen and abiding interest in agricultural affairs and devotes the greater part of his time and energy to agriculture and stock raising since retiring from the governor's chair, early in 1917. Governor Morehead is interested in banking, having been one of the organizers of the Barada State Bank, of which concern he is president, and he is also a director of the First National Bank of Falls City.

Governor Morehead became interested in politics not long after his advent into Richardson county and the first civic office which he held in the county was that of town clerk of Barada, which he filled, as well as serving as town treasurer. He was elected county treasurer on the Democratic ticket in the fall of 1895, and was re-elected to this office in 1897.

In the year 1899 he became cashier of the First National Bank of Falls City, and while filling this position he served one term as mayor of the city. His entrance into state politics was signalized by his election, in 1910, as state senator from the first district. His colleagues gave definite recognition to his ability by placing him in the position of president pro-tem of the Senate. Upon the death of the lieutenant-governor of Nebraska, in 1911, he became lieutenant-governor of the state, in accordance with a provision of the state constitution. In November, 1912, Mr. Morehead was the candidate of his party for the governorship, and was elected to the office by a substantial majority. So popular with the people, was his conduct of the affairs of his high office that he was re-elected to the governorship in 1914. Upon the near expiration of his second term of office, in 1916, he was petitioned by twenty thousand citizens of the state to become a candidate for a third term, but he declined. Very few men have been twice elected governor of the state and Governor Morehead was the first executive in many years to succeed himself—a fact which is the most substantial proof extant of his successful administration. During his administration the board of control for state institutions was established and was placed in working operation with splendid success.

Governor Morehead's ability to judge men and their qualifications came in good stead while performing his duties as chief executive of Nebraska, and he made a record for appointing men of pronounced ability as heads of the different state institutions, which excels that of any preceding governor. The men whom he has appointed to state positions have, in practically every instance, proved their fitness and ability by zealously attending to their duties in the interests of the whole people. His record as governor of Nebraska speaks for itself and future historians will place stress upon the fact that John H. Morehead gave his state an able and conscientious administration, and that he proved himself worthy of the great trust placed in him by his fellow citizens.

On February 14, 1885, John H. Morehead was united in marriage to Minnie Weisenreder, and to this union have been born two children, Dorothy Lee Morehead, a graduate of the University of Nebraska and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Edwin J. Morehead, a student in the law department of the State University. Mrs. Minnie Morehead was born in Aspinwall, Nemaha county, Nebraska, and is a daughter of Edward and Minnie Weisenreder, the former of whom was born in Germany and the latter, in Missouri, a daughter of German parents. The members of the family worship at the Presbyterian church in Falls City.



Governor Morehead is affiliated fraternally with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, being a members also of the local commandery, Knights Templar, and of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Governor Morehead takes a keen interest in local civic affairs, and is ever ready to lend his support to any movement having the welfare of the people and their advancement for its object.

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### JOHN WEBSTER TOWLE.

Signal achievement on the part of the individual is worthy of specific and honorable mention; when that achievement is the life work of a native son of Richardson county of pioneer stock it is well worthy of inscription in the annals of this county. John Webster Towle, civil engineer and successful business man and captain of industry, of Omaha, Nebraska, was born and reared in Richardson county and received his inspiration for accomplishment far beyond the ordinary during his boyhood days spent here, while this county and country were developing into the present prosperous section of the great Middle West. Mr. Towle has made a name for himself in the most difficult of vocations and is recognized as an engineer of pronounced ability and attainments. He has become a notable figure in the business world of his adopted city. Through all of his successes however, he has never lost his regard and affection for home folks and his native city and county, and still considers Richardson county as his home.

John W. Towle was born at Falls City, Nebraska, August 28, 1872, and is a son of Edwin Sargent Towle, dean of the Richardson county bar and one of the best-known pioneer residents of Falls City. Elsewhere in this volume a complete biography of Edwin Sargent Towle is given. The paternal grandparents of John W. Towle were Samuel S. and Marie (Stephens) Towle, natives of New York state. The Towle family is a very old American family, the early records showing that one Reverend Batchelder, a minister, founded the town of Hampton, New Hampshire, as early as 1632. Philip Towle, a direct ancestor, who was from England, settled in Hampton, New Hampshire, in 1640. Members of the Towle family lived for many years in the towns of Hampton, Chester, and Candia, New Hampshire. They emigrated from New Hampshire to Clarkson, New York, where







JOHN W. TOWLE  
EDWIN S. TOWLE

E. H. TOWLE  
MRS. E. S. TOWLE



JOHN W. TOWLE.





the grandparents of John W. Towle were born. Edwin S. Towle, father of the subject of this review, was born on March 13, 1843, at Mishawaka, Indiana, whither his parents had emigrated from New York and had become substantial residents of the community. From Indiana he came to Nebraska and has since been closely identified with the growth and up-building of Falls City, one of the honored and respected pioneer citizens of the community and for years actively engaged in the practice of law in the courts of Richardson county and Nebraska. Edwin S. Towle here married Kittie Love Dorrington, daughter of David and Ann B. (Wood) Dorrington, natives of Watton, England, who immigrated to America and first settled in New York where Mrs. Kittie L. Towle was born on January 27, 1849, at Whites-town. David Dorrington was likewise a pioneer settler of Richardson county, and further and fitting mention of him and Mrs. Dorrington is made elsewhere in this volume. Edwin S. and Kittie L. Towle are the parents of two sons, namely: Edwin H. Towle, of Falls City, concerning whom a biography is herein presented, and John Webster Towle, subject of this review.

John W. Towle practically grew up with the village and town of Falls City and he received his primary education in the public schools of his native city, graduating from the high school in 1889. He then spent a year in preparatory studies at the Highland (Kansas) University and entered Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, from which famous seat of learning he was graduated with the degree of Civil Engineer in 1894. After his graduation he returned to his home city and remained here until 1897. On July 1 of that year he took up his residence in Omaha where he has become actively identified with the business interests of the city. He served as city engineer of Falls City from 1894 to 1897 and was acting county surveyor of Richardson county from 1895 to 1897. He became general western agent for the Canton Bridge Company in 1897, and remained with that concern until 1900. He then embarked as bridge contractor and builder on his own account and was thus engaged until 1906 at which time he organized and became president of the Western Bridge and Construction Company, serving in that capacity until 1911. In the meantime, Mr. Towle had extended his activities and had become connected with various industrial corporations, being an official and stockholder of the following important concerns: President of the Omaha Steel Structural Works; president of the Nebraska Bridge, Supply and Lumber Company; vice-president of the Concrete Engineering Company; vice-president of the Independent Lumber Company; president



of the Omaha Structural Steel Bridge Company and president of the Towle Realty Company. After the great cyclone of 1913, which devastated a large portion of the residential section of the city of Omaha, Mr. Towle was selected by the relief committee and placed in charge of all reconstruction and rebuilding operations necessary to restore the devastated sections of the city. He had supervision of the erection of over seven hundred buildings.

On September 3, 1894, John W. Towle was married to Naomi F. Everts of Geneva, Illinois, and this union has been blessed with three children as follow: Marion Ruth Towle, born on July 5, 1895; Naomi Everts Towle, October 6, 1896, and Everts Sargent Towle, April 23, 1903, who died on April 11, 1904. The mother of these children was born at Geneva, Illinois, March 19, 1873, and is a daughter of James S. and Meta (Warner) Everts, the former of whom was born in 1844 and died in 1908, the latter having been born in 1848 and departed this life in 1900. They were the parents of two children, Ruth M. Everts, born on May 6, 1871, at Geneva, Illinois, and Naomi F., wife of John W. Towle. James S. Everts organized and developed the famous "Louieland Farm," which was located southwest of Falls City and was noted the country over. Further and appropriate mention of Mr. Everts is made elsewhere in this history.

Mr. Towle takes an active and influential interest in affairs political and is aligned with the Progressive Republicans. He served as a delegate to the national conventions of his party held in 1912 and in 1916. He is affiliated fraternally with the Omaha Lodge of Elks and the Alpha Tau Omega—his college fraternity—and is a member of the following professional societies: The Omaha Technical Society; the Nebraska State Society of Engineers, and the Cornell Civil Engineering Society of New York. He is a member of the First Methodist church of Omaha and is at present serving on the board of trustees of that church.

Although the activities and career of this successful native son of Richardson county has called him to the Nebraska metropolis, his heart and mind is still with Richardson county, where he has farming interests which occupy his attention, and he has always considered this as his permanent home. His recreations are mainly confined to tennis and golf, and during his college days at Cornell played on the 'Varsity baseball team and took considerable interest in other college athletics. Mr. Towle has given evidence of his patriotism and deep love of country by offering his services to his country as an officer in the Engineering Corps, for active service in the great World War, and is expecting a call to Washington at any time.

## JOHN R. SHELLY.

John R. Shelly, postmaster at Preston and for years a well-known merchant in that thriving village, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of this part of the country since the days of his boyhood, he having come out here with his parents when he was about nine years of age. He was born in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, July 7, 1867, son of Philip and Lavina (Shutt) Shelly, both natives of that same state, who later became pioneers of Richardson county and both of whom are still living.

Philip Shelly was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, in December, 1843, a son of Christian Shelly, also a native of Pennsylvania, a farmer, who spent all his life in his native state. Philip Shelly grew up in Pennsylvania and there married Lavina Shutt who was born in Montgomery county, that same state. In 1876 he came West with his family and was for some time thereafter engaged as a farmer and stockbuyer at Hamlin, Kansas, remaining there until 1880, in which year he came up into Nebraska and started the townsite at Preston, in the precinct of Jefferson, this county, building the first store building in that village, and also bought a farm at that site. Mr. Shelly was made the first postmaster of Preston and continued holding that office, engaged at the same time in the general merchandise and drug business and in the buying and selling of live stock, until his retirement from business in 1896. He is now living at Sterling, this state, and his wife is making her home with her youngest daughter at Denver, in Miami county, Indiana. To Philip Shelly and wife were born nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth and the first-born of whom died in infancy, the others being as follow: Katherine, deceased; Martha, wife of Henry C. Zoeller, a well-known and substantial farmer and stockman of Jefferson precinct and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume; Christian, of Boise, Idaho; Fred, of Gordon, this state; Robert, deceased; Lillie, deceased, and Mrs. Lavina Myers, of Denver, Indiana.

John R. Shelly was about thirteen years of age when his parents settled at Preston and he finished his schooling there and there grew to manhood, working on the home farm and clerking in his father's store. When twenty-one years of age he began farming on his own account and after his marriage in 1893 established his home on the farm and there continued to reside until 1910, when he retired and moved to Preston, where he since has been successfully engaged in the general merchandise business, one of the best-



known merchants in that part of the county. In 1910 Mr. Shelly was commissioned postmaster of Preston and has since held that office, an office his father formerly and for years occupied. He is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs.

On August 15, 1893, John R. Shelly was united in marriage to Louisa Pyle, who was born on a pioneer farm in the neighborhood of Falls City, this county, August 2, 1870, daughter of Elbridge and Mary (Painter) Pyle, natives of Illinois, who came to Nebraska in 1870 and settled in this county, becoming pioneers of the precinct of Jefferson, where Mrs. Pyle spent her last days. Mr. Pyle is now living at Preston. Mr. and Mrs. Shelly have four children, Evelyn, who is at home; Lucile, wife of G. L. Waggoner, of Wymore, this state, and Irvin and Byron, at home. The Shellys have a very pleasant home at Preston and take an interested part in the general social activities of the village and of the community at large. Mr. Shelly is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Rulo and of the Falls City lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and in the affairs of both of these organizations takes a warm interest. In addition to his mercantile interests at Preston, Mr. Shelly is the owner of a quarter of a section of well-improved land in Blaine county, this state, and is quite well circumstanced.

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### BREVET SIMANTON.

To succeed as a floriculturist requires not only infinite care and study, but also peculiar natural ability. As a rule it is only those with aesthetic tastes who follow this delightful occupation. Such a man is Brevet Simanton, now living in honorable retirement in Falls City, this county. He was born on February 16, 1847, in Erie county, New York, a son of Robert and Eunice (Wing) Simanton, whose family consisted of eight children, the subject of this sketch being now the only survivor. The father was born about 1800. His parents were natives of Holland, from which country they immigrated to America in an early day, settling in Pennsylvania. Robert Simanton was a tanner by trade, also a harness-maker and trunkmaker, but he was operating a saw-mill near Buffalo, New York, at the time of his death, which occurred in 1851. His wife, Eunice Wing, was born at Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in 1808 and died in 1892. She was a daughter of Andrew M. and Betsey (Hatch) Wing, both natives of Massachusetts.

Brevet Simanton went with his mother to St. Joseph county, Indiana.

in 1855, and there attended school. In 1868 he came to Nebraska and located at Falls City, where he followed the painter's trade, which he had learned before leaving Indiana. He became quite expert and continued his trade in Falls City until 1887, when he turned his attention to horticulture, raising fruits and vegetables; later starting a greenhouse as a side line, on a small scale, his first building being only eleven by twenty feet. As his business prospered he later built an addition twenty by thirty-six feet, then another of forty by eighty feet dimensions. He made a pronounced success in this line of endeavor and enjoyed a trade for a distance of one hundred miles on both sides of the railroad, each way from Falls City. Having by his thrift and good management accumulated a comfortable competency he retired from active life in 1915. When he first landed in Falls City he had but two dollars and fifty cents in money. He was succeeded in business by his son, John R. Simanton, to whom he sold out, in partnership with the latter's brother-in-law, Harry A. Pence, and these two gentlemen are now carrying on the business on a more extensive scale than it was formerly conducted, under the firm name of Simanton & Pence, "Sunnyside Greenhouses."

On June 1, 1871, Brevet Simanton was married to Helen M. Baldwin, who was born in Montpelier, Indiana, a daughter of John C. and Rachel (Waugh) Baldwin, natives of Vermont, and to this union the following children have been born: Edwin B., who lives in Arizona; John R., who lives in Falls City; Mrs. Jennie S. Pence, who also lives in Falls City, and Marion, wife of T. R. Burchard, who lives on a farm in Nemaha county, Nebraska. Politically, Mr. Simanton is a Republican. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a Civil War veteran, having enlisted in 1864 in the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

John R. Simanton, mentioned in preceding paragraphs, was born at Falls City on September 5, 1874, and there he grew to manhood and attended the public schools, graduating from the high school in 1892. He has always worked with his father, whom he has succeeded in the greenhouse business and is making a pronounced success. He was married in 1901, to Ethel Minnick, who was born in Calker City, Kansas, a daughter of Robert and Sarah R. (Ireland) Minnick, who were early settlers of Richardson county. Mr. and Mrs. John R. Simanton have two daughters, Sarah and Ruth. Politically, John R. Simanton is a Republican and, fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Royal Highlanders.



## WILLIAM PERCIVAL.

William Percival, proprietor of a fine farm in sections 22 and 23 of the precinct of Barada, this county, is a native of the state of Illinois, but has been a resident of this county since he was eighteen years of age, having come here as a farm hand in 1891, and has gradually worked his way up to his present well-circumstanced condition. He was born on a farm in Effingham county, Illinois, January 15, 1873, son of John and Sophia (Koso) Percival, both of whom were of European birth, the former a native of the city of Manchester, England, and the latter of the grand duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, whose last days were spent in Illinois.

John Percival was born on June 28, 1835, and remained in his native England until about 1861, when he came to this country and not long afterward enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War, serving until his final honorable discharge, after which he located in Effingham county, Illinois, where in the early seventies, he married Mrs. Sophia (Koso) Madouse, of that county, widow of Joseph Madouse and mother of Christ. Madouse, a well-known farmer of the precinct of Barada, this county, and a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume. After his marriage John Percival continued to make his home in Effingham county, Illinois, and there spent his last days, his death occurring on May 18, 1903. He and his wife were the parents of six children, those besides the subject of this sketch being George, of Effingham county, Illinois; Fred, of that same county; Sophia, wife of I. Bailey, of Coles county Illinois; Mrs. Henry Ruegge, of the precinct of Arago, this county, and one who died in infancy.

Reared on the home farm in Illinois, William Percival received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and remained at home until he was eighteen years of age, when, in 1891, he came to Nebraska and began working as a farm hand in Richardson county, receiving a wage of sixteen dollars a month, and was thus engaged until 1894, when he bought three horses and some other equipment and rented a farm in the precinct of Ohio, this county, and began farming on his own account. The next year he married and continued farming with such success that in 1911 he was enabled to buy his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in sections 22 and 23 of the precinct of Barada, where he has since made his home and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of that place, Mr. Percival has erected a fine new modern residence, and an ample barn, and has made other substantial improvements on the place, his

farm plant now being one of the best in that part of the county. Of late years he has been giving considerable attention to the breeding of Chester White hogs and is doing very well in his operations.

On September 5, 1895, William Percival was united in marriage to Ida Sailors, who was born in the precinct of Barada, this county, May 16, 1872, daughter of William H. Sailors and wife, pioneers of Richardson county and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union seven children have been born, Alfred, Elmer, Elizabeth, Roy, Fern, Theodore and Clark, all of whom are at home. The Percivals have a very pleasant home and take an interested part in the general social activities of their home community. They are members of the Christian church and give proper attention to church works, as well as other neighborhood good works, helpful in promoting all agencies designed to advance the common welfare of the community in which they live.

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#### GRANT L. WINDLE.

Grant L. Windle, laundryman at Falls City and proprietor and manager of one of the best-equipped steam laundries in this part of the state, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of Richardson county since he was four years of age, having come here with his parents back in pioneer days. He was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of the town of Polo, in Ogle county, Illinois, September 12, 1868, son of William and Susan V. (Baker) Windle, natives, respectively, of Virginia and of Illinois, who later came to Richardson county and here spent their last days, honored and useful pioneer residents.

William Windle was born at Woodstock, Virginia, in 1843, and was but a child when his parents moved from there to Ogle county, Illinois, where he was reared on a farm and where he was living at the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted for service as a private in the Forty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and with that command went to the front. At the battle of Shiloh Mr. Windle was shot through the breast, the bullet striking just above the heart. When he was able to endure the journey he was furloughed home and after lying in a hospital for several months was given his discharge, but upon recuperating from his wound he re-enlisted and served until the close of the war. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Windle returned to Ogle county and there, in



1866, married Susan V. Baker, who was born in that county in 1841. After his marriage he established his home on a farm in Ogle county, in the immediate vicinity of Polo, and there remained until the spring of 1872, when he bought a farm in the precinct of Liberty, in this county, and moved his family out here onto an unbroken prairie farm and here established his permanent home. He lost little time in bringing that raw prairie farm under cultivation and it was not long until he came to be recognized as one of the leading farmers in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming he paid considerable attention to the breeding of pure-bred Short-horn cattle and in that line did very well, his stock for twenty years being widely known among exhibitors at the county fairs hereabout. Mr. Windle was an ardent Republican and an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic. He died in 1901 and his widow survived until 1913. Both are buried in the Steele cemetery at Falls City. They were the parents of nine children, those besides the subject of this sketch, the first-born, being as follow: Lillian G., wife of C. H. Heckler, of Wakomis, Oklahoma; Marble, wife of N. A. Morgan, of Center, Colorado; Edna I., wife of D. W. Griffith, of Verdon, this county; Charles A., of Salem, this county; Frank E., of Wakomis, Oklahoma; Bert O., of Durango, Colorado, and two who died in infancy.

As noted above Grant L. Windle was four years of age when his parents settled in this county, in 1872, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Liberty precinct. He received his schooling in the local schools and remained at home, a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home place, until he was twenty-four years of age, when he rented a farm and for a couple of years thereafter was engaged in farming on his own hook. He then, in 1894, recognized the need of a steam laundry in Falls City and in partnership with Wesley Brooks, started such an establishment there, about three months later becoming sole proprietor of the same, and has ever since been engaged in that business. As the business developed Mr. Windle has continued to add to his equipment and to his facilities until now he has one of the best-established and best-equipped steam laundries in this part of the country. When he started in business his plant, which was located in a dwelling house, consisted of a steam washer and extractor, a shirt ironer and a home-made dryer. In May, 1895, his father erected for him a building more serviceable for his laundry and after that building was destroyed by fire in 1908 he erected his present commodious and well-arranged building, equipping the same with a complete and up-to-date plant.

On August 3, 1898, Grant L. Windle was united in marriage to Clara Culp, who was born in Brown county, Kansas, daughter of Joseph and Charlotte (Hersey) Culp, natives, respectively, of Ohio and of Canada, who came up into Richardson county from Kansas about 1860 and here Joseph Culp, who was a well-known stock buyer, spent his last days. His widow is now living at Hooper, Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Windle have one child, a daughter, Thelma, born in 1900. They are members of the Christian church and take a proper interest in community good works. Mr. Windle is a Republican and has served as a member of the city council. He is affiliated with the Masonic lodge and with the Elks lodge and takes a warm interest in the affairs of both of these organizations.

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### CONRAD BRECHT.

Conrad Brecht, retired farmer, now living at Falls City, where he and his wife have made their home since moving from their farm in the precinct of Ohio in 1905, is a native of the Dominion of Canada, but has been a resident of Nebraska and of this county since he has ten years of age, his parents having settled here in 1867, the year in which Nebraska was admitted to statehood, and he thus has been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days. He was born on a farm in Waterloo county, in the province of Ontario, Canada, March 22, 1857, son of Carl J. and Susan (Hadley) Brecht, natives of Germany, who became pioneers of this county and here spent the remainder of their lives.

Carl J. Brecht was born in the grand duchy of Baden in 1826 and was there trained to the trade of wagon-maker. When he was about twenty years of age he came to this country and began working at his trade at Buffalo, New York, where he married Susan Hadley, also a native of Germany, born in 1835, and who was but twelve years of age when she came to this country with her parents. Not long after his marriage, Carl J. Brecht moved up over the line into Canada and located in the county of Waterloo, province of Ontario, where he engaged in farming and also continued more or less engaged in working at his trade as a wagonmaker, remaining there for about ten years, or until the fall of 1867, when he returned to the States and settled in the then new state of Nebraska, the state just having been admitted to the Union in that year, the date of his



arrival in Richardson county being October 14, 1867. His brother, Bernard Brecht, had previously purchased a tract of land in the northwest corner of the precinct of Jefferson and after his death Carl J. Brecht bought the place, and there he continued to make his home, developing and improving the farm, until his death ten years later, in 1877, one of the best-known pioneers of that neighborhood. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring on January 9, 1903. They were the parents of nine children, eight of whom grew to maturity, namely: Charles J., deceased; Conrad, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Mrs. Caroline Fenske, of Hopkins, this state; Harry, a well-known stockman of Falls City precinct; Fred, of Falls City; Mrs. Catherine Kruse, of Falls City; Peter M., living retired in Falls City, and Mrs. Elizabeth Schmechle, a widow, of Hoskins.

As noted above, Conrad Brecht was ten years of age when he came to this county from Canada with his parents in the fall of 1867 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in the precinct of Jefferson, completing his schooling in the district schools of that neighborhood and from the days of his boyhood proving a valuable factor in the labors of developing and improving the home farm. When twenty-one years of age he rented a farm from his mother, his father having died meanwhile, and three years later bought a tract of sixty acres in the precinct of Jefferson, which he proceeded to improve and on which he established his home after his marriage in 1882. He later bought an adjoining "eighty" and continued farming that place until 1892, when he sold it and bought a tract of two hundred and forty acres in section 25 of the precinct of Ohio and moved onto the same, making extensive improvements on this latter place and there enlarged his operations in the way of raising live stock. Mr. Brecht later bought an adjoining "eighty" in section 36 and is thus the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, a half section, of excellent land and has brought the same up to a high state of development. In 1905 he and his wife left the farm and moved to Falls City, where they have a fine home, but he continued to give his personal attention to the farm until his definite retirement from farming in 1912, though he continues to hold his old home farm. Mr. Brecht is a stockholder in the State Bank of Falls City and is also a shareholder in the Springfield Vinegar Company of Falls City and has other investments of a profitable character. He is a Democrat and has for years given his thoughtful attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

It was on January 26, 1882, in the precinct of Jefferson, this county,

that Conrad Brecht was united in marriage to Augusta Schmechel, who was born in West Prussia, Germany, April 21, 1862, and who was nine years of age when she came to this country with her parents, John and Justine (Tesmer) Schmechel, who settled in the precinct of Jefferson in this county, in the early seventies, becoming substantial pioneer residents of that part of the county. John Schmechel was born in Prussia on December 12, 1837, and died at his home in this county on July 23, 1907. His widow is now living at Falls City, past ninety years of age, one of the oldest residents of Richardson county. She and her husband were the parents of eleven children, of whom but four grew to maturity. To Mr. and Mrs. Brecht five children have been born, namely: Frank, who is living on the old home place in Ohio precinct and who married Rosa Bertram and has one child, Evelyn Pauline; Mrs. Anna Schindler, also living on the home farm and who has one child, Wilbur Conrad; Elizabeth, wife of Charles C. Davis, postmaster of Falls City, and who also has one child, a daughter, Katherine; Caroline, now deceased, who was the wife of James Stewart and who had one child, Clyde Conrad; and Alfred, battalion sergeant-major on the staff of Major Herman in the artillery section of the ammunition train with headquarters at Iola, Kansas, and who in the fall of 1917 was transferred to the training camp at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Mrs. Brecht is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Brecht is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and both he and his wife are members of the Daughters of Rebekah and of the Royal Highlanders.

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#### REV. PAUL HASLER.

The Rev. Paul Hasler, pastor of St. Ann's Catholic church in Barada precinct, this county, is a man whom everybody knows and esteems in that portion of the county, where he is doing an excellent work. He was born at Muensterberg, province of Silesia, Germany, and he is a son of Joseph and Bertha (Voegel) Hasler, both natives of Germany, where they grew up, attended school and were married. The father was a tradesman in Muensterberg and he is still residing there.

The subject of this review grew to manhood in his native land and studied there at the College of Holy Cross in Silesia, also at the Seminary of St. Gabriel, near Vienna, Austria. He came to America in August, 1900 and studied at St. Mary's College, Cincinnati, Ohio. Thus well prepared



for his chosen life work he was ordained in 1910 at Columbus, Ohio. Soon thereafter he came to Nebraska and took charge of the churches of Gilead and Alexandria, near Hebron. He was later chaplain of St. Thomas's Orphanage, at Lincoln, Nebraska, for one year. He came to Salem, Richardson county, in July, 1914, and has since had charge of St. Ann's church and the Salem church. Father Hasler has proven to be an industrious and conscientious worker, is popular among the members of his parish and has greatly strengthened the work of the church since coming here. He is a scholarly man, unassuming and of genial address.

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### HENRY E. WYATT.

Henry E. Wyatt, a prosperous farmer and live stock breeder of Falls City precinct, is a native-born citizen of this county, a son of old pioneer residents, who has found Richardson county a good enough place in which to spend his life, and has seen no need to wander from the land of his birth in search of opportunities—there being sufficient inducement for him to remain in his home county and here become a very successful agriculturist.

Mr. Wyatt was born on a farm one mile east of Falls City, Nebraska, July 13, 1868, on the old Wyatt homestead upon which his father settled in the year 1859. He is a son of Charles and Rebecca (Forney) Wyatt, the former of whom was a native of England and the latter a native of Ohio. Charles Wyatt was born at Sheffield, England, in 1837 and spent his earlier years in his native land, emigrating to America in 1857 and, after a residence of a short time in Illinois, he came to Nebraska in 1859. He bought a farm of eighty acres just east of Falls City, and erected thereon a small frame house, fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions and at once set about improving and breaking up his land. His method of transportation from Illinois was by oxen, driving the long distance. He also used oxen in breaking up his land for cultivation during the first year of his residence here. A few years later he joined one of the "gold rushes" to California and remained employed in the gold mines of the western coast country until 1865, when he returned home and settled down to farming his land. He remained engaged in his farming activities until death claimed him on January 9, 1879. The mother and children resided on the home farm until it was sold in April, 1901.

Charles Wyatt was married to Rebecca Forney in 1867, and this union was blessed with a family of three sons and two daughters, namely: Henry E., the subject of this review; Mrs. Mary E. Perry, who died at Hop Bottom, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Martha Fisher, who lives in Falls City precinct; William, who lives in Jefferson county, Kansas, and Joseph, who is engaged in farming near Effingham, Atchison county, Kansas. The mother of these children was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, November 26, 1845, and was a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Brenniger) Forney, who became pioneer settlers of the Western country. She died on April 22, 1905.

Joseph Forney, father of Mrs. Charles Wyatt, was born on May 19, 1824, in Ohio, and there married Mary Brenniger of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in 1851. Soon after his marriage he joined a party of immigrants who were going to the Western country for the purpose of founding homes in the new and rich lands of the unsettled prairie regions. The party made the long journey down the Ohio river by boat and thence up the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Severe spring storms weakened the structure of the steamer which was conveying this party of hardy adventurers and the boat was wrecked near the site of St. Joseph. The entire party was forced to land and lived in the open in hastily constructed camps for some time. The exposure was very hard on the weaker members of the party and cholera broke out in virulent form. Many died, among them being the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Forney. This was a sad culmination to the long and arduous journey of six weeks which had been tinged with bright expectations of a home in the new lands which they were seeking. After much delay they again secured a steamboat, which conveyed them up the Missouri and they made a landing near Oregon, in Holt county, Missouri. Not long after landing, Mrs. Forney died as a result of the exposure and hardships to which she had been subjected. Joseph Forney made a home for his children in Holt county and in 1854 married Louisa Jane Coon, who had come to Missouri from Richland county, Ohio, in company with a brother-in-law and his family, she walking almost the entire distance because of the heavily loaded condition of the wagons which carried her brother-in-law's effects. In the fall of 1855 this pioneer couple came to Nebraska and settled on a farm east of Falls City, where Mr. Forney prospered and became well-to-do, and one of the influential men of this county. For a number of years the Forney home was the only residence between Falls City and Rulo and the home was used as a meeting place for the



Methodist people of the vicinity, both Mr. and Mrs. Forney being stanch members of the Methodist denomination. Sunday schools and revivals were frequently held in the Forney home. Mr. Forney traded a great deal with the Indians and was well liked by them until an incident occurred which caused the wild denizens of the wilderness to shun the Forney home for a long time. Once while on a trip to St. Joseph, Mrs. Forney contracted measles and was left at the home of an Indian. Measles naturally broke out among the red men and their families in a few days, and they became so frightened that they refused to go to the Forney home for a long time, believing that the evil spirit had in some way placed a curse on the place and its occupants. Mr. Forney lived to be eighty-six years old and his wife attained the age of eighty-one year. Both are historic characters in the annals of Richardson county.

Henry E. Wyatt, subject of this review, was reared to young manhood on the Wyatt home farm east of Falls City, assisted with the work of the farm and attended the district school during the intervals between crops. He cultivated the farm for his mother until 1894 and then rented the land on his own account, keeping it well improved and the soil up to standard by judicious rotation of crops. In 1906 he bought his present farm, the old Ewalt place, in section 16, just west of Falls City, which consists of eighty-two acres in Falls City township. This place is well improved, with a nice residence and good buildings, and is within sight and easy walking distance of the city. In connection with his general farming activities, Mr. Wyatt makes a specialty of breeding Jersey cattle and Poland China hogs, a departure which he began in 1895 and is carrying on very successfully. In addition to his thoroughbred hogs and cattle, Mr. Wyatt keeps a fine flock of White Rock poultry.

On January 11, 1903, Henry E. Wyatt was married to Sallie Whitaker, who was born in Putnam county, Tennessee, April 23, 1868. Further mention of the Whitaker family will be found elsewhere in this volume. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt, namely: Bessie, who was graduated from the Falls City high school and is at home with her parents, and Jennings, also at home.

Mr. Wyatt is a Democrat and is more or less active in local political affairs, being one of the leaders of his party in Richardson county and having filled several offices. He served as road supervisor and as chairman of the Falls City precinct board and in 1914 was elected to the office of county supervisor, which position he held until the county government was changed so that a board of county commissioners succeeded the supervisors.

He discharged the duties of these official positions in a faithful and acceptable manner. Fraternally, Mr. Wyatt belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He and Mrs. Wyatt are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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### W. S. LEYDA.

W. S. Leyda, mayor of Falls City and a well-known cigar manufacturer of that city, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Nebraska since he was a boy and of Falls City since 1889, in which year he moved down from Weeping Water, where he had been engaged in railroad service, and engaged in the mercantile business, presently embarking there in the cigar business and has ever since been engaged as a manufacturer and jobber in that line, at the same time giving his attention to local civic affairs, and is now serving his eighth successive term as mayor of the city, to which office he was re-nominated by acclamation at a mass meeting in the spring of 1917.

As noted above, Mayor Leyda is a native of Ohio. He was born on a farm in Vermillion township, Ashland county, that state, April 5, 1864, son of Reuben K. and Catherine (Sharpe) Leyda, both of whom also were born in Ohio and both of Pennsylvania parentage, the former a son of James Leyda, of Irish descent, whose wife, a native of New York, was of Colonial descent. The Leydas have been farmers as far back as their history in this country is known to the present generation of the family. In 1881 Reuben K. Leyda left Ohio with his family and came to Nebraska locating on a farm four miles north of Weeping Water, in Cass county, where he made his home until his retirement from the active labors of the farm and removal to Falls City, where he spent his last days, his death occurring there on October 23, 1910, he then being seventy-six years of age. His wife had preceded him to the grave more than nine years, her death having occurred in March, 1902. They were the parents of four children, sons all, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth the others being Tracy, a farmer, living near Murray, in Cass county; John M., a lawyer at Plattsmouth, and James E., a lawyer at Falls City.

W. S. Leyda was seventeen years of age when he came to this state with his parents and brothers and settled in Cass county. He had received excellent schooling in his Ohio home and upon his arrival here became



engaged as a school teacher in Cass county, as also did his brothers, and for three winters was thus engaged, meantime assisting during the summers in the labors of developing and improving the home farm. He then entered the railway service and for three years was employed as cashier in the office of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company at Weeping Water, at the same time giving his leisure hours to the study of law under the preceptorship of Harvey Travis, an attorney-at-law at Weeping Water. In December, 1889, Mr. Leyda's services were obtained by the clothing firm of Herman Brothers, of Lincoln, to take charge of a clothing store operated by that firm at Falls City and he moved to that city and for three years was engaged in operating that store; after which, in 1892, he engaged in that city in the retail cigar business and was so successful in that line that on January 1, 1898, he extended the business to include the manufacture of cigars and a general jobbing trade in that line and has ever since been engaged in that business.

Mayor Leyda is a Republican on state and national issues, though he ever has held himself independent on local issues, and from the days of his boyhood has taken an interest in political affairs. Upon locating at Falls City he entered into the political activities of the town and the county and not long afterward was elected city clerk, a position he held for two terms. He then was elected assessor and held that office by successive re-elections for four terms, after which he was elected mayor of the city and has been retained in that office ever since, now serving his eighth consecutive term of office as mayor of the city. During this long period of administrative service Mayor Leyda has been mindful of the needs of the city and his administration has been marked by many substantial evidences of the progressiveness and public spirit of the chief executive and his council. Among the permanent improvements thus made, reference may be made to the thorough system of concrete sidewalks, the effectual method of letting paving contracts, the inclusive extension of the city sewer system and the installation of boulevard lights on Stone street, the beautiful "White Way" of Falls City, this latter very marked improvement having been completed and the "White Way" illuminated on September 27, 1912. During the winter of 1916-17 the high price of coal prompted Mayor Leyda to ask the council for permission to buy coal for distribution at actual cost to such deserving applicants for fuel as were unable without painful sacrifices to pay the market price for coal. This movement was indorsed by the council and the Mayor was thus enabled to relieve a measure of the distress that many in

the city otherwise would have suffered during that long and trying winter. It was also through his initiative that the local board of associated charities was organized in that winter and a "tag day" inaugurated, whereby five hundred dollars was raised for the relief of the more immediate cases of distress among the poor persons of the city.

On November 15, 1895, W. S. Leyda was united in marriage to Mrs. Ada A. (McMillan) Ammerman, a widow, of Medina county, Ohio, and daughter of James McMillan and wife, and to this union four children have been born, twins, deceased; Lucilla, who was graduated from Lincoln University and is now a teacher in Whitman College at Walla Walla, Washington, and Camille, also a graduate of Lincoln University, who is now a teacher in the high school at Crete, over in Saline county, this state. Mayor and Mrs. Leyda have a pleasant home in Falls City and have ever taken an active and an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of their home town. They are attendants on the services of the Methodist Episcopal church. The Mayor is affiliated with the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is high in the councils of Pythianism and is a member of the supreme lodge of that order representative from the grand lodge of the order for the state of Nebraska.

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### JACOB FRANKLIN WISSINGER.

The county farm has never had a better superintendent since Richardson county made provisions for its aged and indigent citizens than it now has in the person of Jacob Franklin Wissinger. He was born on September 21, 1847, in Washington county, Maryland, a son of Solomon B. and Lillian (Myras) Wissinger. The father was born in Frederick county, Maryland, in 1804, and his death occurred on March 18, 1897. He was a farmer and wood-chopper. He was also handy with tools and made wagon spokes, axe handles and other articles of a similar nature. His parents were natives of Germany. He was twice married. His first union, which was with Lillian Myras, resulted in the birth of two children, namely: George, deceased, and Jacob F., the subject of this sketch. His last marriage was with Mrs. Elizabeth Asterdauch, and to their union five children were born, namely: Mrs. Ellen Baker, who lives in Wisconsin; Mrs. Drusey Baker, who lives in Mary-



land; Samuel, who was next in order of birth; Joseph, who lives in Washington county, Maryland, and Scott makes his home in Ogle county, Illinois.

Jacob F. Wissinger was reared on a farm and attended the district schools. When twenty-one years old he left home and began working on a farm in Illinois. In 1883 he came to Nebraska and worked on the farm of John Timmerman, in Richardson county, for five years; then he married and rented land until 1902, when he bought one hundred acres in Barada precinct. He made many improvements on the place, remodeled the buildings and farmed there successfully until 1914, when he took charge of the poor farm at Salem at a salary of twelve hundred dollars a year and the use of the land—one hundred and twenty acres. The place was badly run down when he assumed charge of it, but he has now brought it up to a high state of improvement and cultivation and is raising good crops of all kinds common to this locality. He has replaced the old fences and gates with new ones, remodeled the buildings and made a general clean-up, being untiring in his efforts to make the place sanitary and healthful, as well as inviting and attractive. He has put up some new buildings of a minor nature and has set out a good orchard, doing the work himself, the county paying only for the trees. He has given eminent satisfaction in this work and anyone looking over the place can readily see that a man of good judgment and industry has its management in hand. He sold his own farm in 1915, but still owns six acres in Falls City.

On May 7, 1891, Mr. Wissinger was married to Mary Schultz, who was born on July 21, 1867, in Vermillion county, Illinois. She is a daughter of Peter and Julianna (Hoss) Schultz, both natives of Germany, from which country they came to America when children, with their respective parents, the families locating in Ohio and Indiana. Peter Schultz was a coal miner. He died in 1915 at the age of seventy-five years, having made his home with the subject of this sketch during the last twenty-three years of his life. His wife died on February 10, 1912, at the age of sixty-nine years. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wissinger, namely: Walter, who is at home; Ella, the wife of C. Wissinger, of Falls City; Scott, at home; Julianna, who also is with her parents, and one child who died in infancy.

Mr. Wissinger is a Democrat and has served as a member of the school board and as road "boss." Fraternally, he has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for thirty-three years. He also is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, a charter member of the lodge at Salem, which he joined twenty-six years ago.

## WILLIAM E. DORRINGTON.

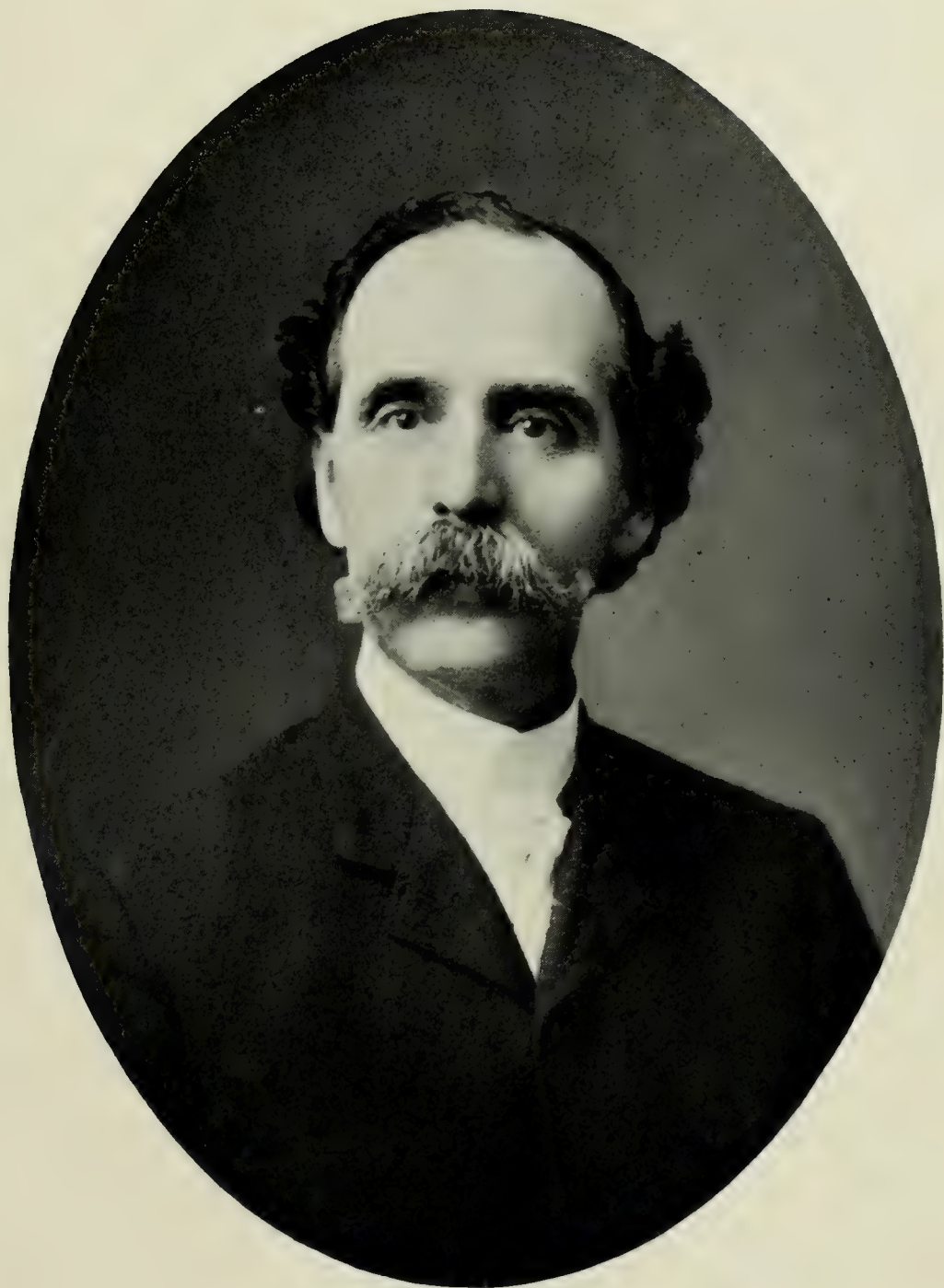
William E. Dorrington, former mayor of Falls City and a retired banker of that city, now actively engaged there in the real-estate business, a member of the J. W. Dorrington Company, which is interested in large tracts of land in Arizona, is a native of the great Empire state, but has been a resident of this region since the year 1857 and of Falls City since the year of the establishment of the townsite there, his father, the late David Dorrington, having been the first householder on the townsite. William E. Dorrington was born at Whitestown, New York, September 22, 1847, son of David and Ann B. (Wood) Dorrington, natives of England, and was not yet ten years of age when his parents left New York in the spring of 1857 and came West, settling in Doniphan county, in the then Territory of Kansas. In the fall of that same year the townsite of Falls City was laid out and David Dorrington came up here from Doniphan county and established his residence on the townsite, his family joining him there in the following spring. David Dorrington was a building contractor and from the very beginning of his residence there took an active part in the labors of developing the new town and the country adjacent, both he and his wife becoming such influential factors in the early development of the place that they are still known in affectionate remembrance hereabout as "the father and mother of Falls City," as is set out at some length in a memorial sketch relating to this useful pioneer couple presented elsewhere in this volume. William E. Dorrington was the fifth in order of birth of the six children born to his parents, the others being as follow: Fred M., who early began to operate a store for William Brooks at Falls City, later was engaged for several years in teaching school, then went to Platts-mouth, Nebraska, where he engaged in the mail and stage business, his death occurring at Alliance, Nebraska, in 1899; George E., who made his home in the new village of Falls City until 1861, when he went to Chicago and entered the employ of the McCabe packing firm and was thus employed for several years, at the end of which time he returned to Falls City and was there employed for about twenty years as express agent, later becoming traveling passenger agent for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, some years later going to Arizona, where he died in 1910; John W., who for some time after coming to this region assisted his brother in conducting a mail route and stage line and in 1862 enlisted for service in the Union army, a member of the Second Nebraska Cavalry, and at the close of this service



went to Plattsmouth, where he resumed his activities in the stage route, going thence to Lincoln when the latter place was laid out and remaining there until 1869, when he went to Arizona as a clerk under Judge Isham Reavis, of the United States court, and there became a large landowner, remaining in Arizona until 1915, when, after a visit to Falls City, he, with Mrs. Isham Reavis, returned to Arizona, and from there made a trip to Honolulu, where he died, September 18, 1916; Annie M., widow of Judge Isham Reavis, of Falls City, and Kittie L., wife of Edwin S. Towle, of Falls City.

As noted above, William E. Dorrington was ten years of age when his parents established their home in the new town of Falls City and there he spent his boyhood. When a school was organized there he entered the same, but later entered the school at Plattsmouth and after a year there took a two-years course in the school at Peru, that later became elevated to the status of a state normal school, following which he entered Chicago University and upon completing the course there accepted the position of station agent for the old Atchison & Missouri River Railroad Company at Falls City, following Charles Loree, who was the first agent for the company at that place, and occupied that position during the years 1871 and 1872. He then engaged in the furniture and undertaking business at Falls City, in association with Mr. Stowe, who a year later sold his interest to W. M. Wilson, and was thus engaged until 1894, in which year he disposed of that interest. In the meantime Mr. Dorrington had been giving his attention to various other business interests in Falls City, notable of which was his connection with the State Bank at that place, of which institution he was for four years president. Since retiring from the banking business Mr. Dorrington has been chiefly interested in the extensive real-estate undertakings of the J. W. Dorrington Company, Arizona lands being the principal interest of this company. Mr. Dorrington also for years has taken an earnest interest in the general civic affairs of his home community and has long been accounted one of the leaders in the Republican party in this part of the state. As a member of the city council he for some years rendered a valuable service in behalf of the promotion of the general interests of Falls City and when later he was elected mayor of the city he gave his most thoughtful and intelligent attention to the important duties of that office.

Mr. Dorrington has been twice married. In 1873 he was united in marriage to Emma A. Stowe, who was born at Binghampton, New York, and who had come West with her parents, M. A. and E. A. Stowe, in 1868,



WILLIAM E. DORRINGTON.





the family settling at Hiawatha, Kansas, and to that union five children were born, namely: Mrs. Maude Kuffman, of Lincoln, this state; Mrs. May Martin, of Omaha; Lillian D., wife of Lieut. E. D. Fisher, of Falls City, an officer of Company E, Sixth Nebraska Regiment; Ann D., wife of E. P. Hyson, manager of the Omaha Cold Storage Company, and John W., a well-to-do ranchman in Montana. Mrs. Emma A. Dorrington died in 1900 and in 1905 Mr. Dorrington married Emma W. Wherry, who was born at Wilmington, Ohio, daughter of Joseph and Phoebe Wherry, who located in Falls City in 1898 and who are now deceased. Mrs. Dorrington is a member of the Christian church and Mr. Dorrington is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. They have a very pleasant home in Falls City and take an earnest interest in the general social activities of the community, helpful in promoting all good movements.

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#### WENDELIN GERWECK.

Wendelin Gerweck, one of Richardson county's substantial retired farmers and the owner of nearly four hundred acres of excellent land in the northeastern part of the county, is of European birth, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood and of Nebraska since 1883. He was born in Bichig, amt of Bretten, in the grand duchy of Baden, on July 5, 1858, one of the twelve children born to Ambrose and Katherine (Gerweck) Gerweck, both natives of that same country, the former born in 1820 and the latter, in 1828, who spent all their lives in their native land, the latter dying in 1872 and the former in 1880.

Reared in Baden, Wendelin Gerweck remained there until he was twenty-three years of age, when, in 1881, he came to this country and for a year or more thereafter was engaged working as a farm hand in New Jersey. He then, in 1883, came out to Nebraska and located in Richardson county, beginning work as a farm hand on the farm on which he now lives and which he has owned for years. For three years he worked there, cutting brush and doing other development work, and then rented a tract of land in the precinct of East Barada and after his marriage in 1888 established his home there. In 1894 he bought the tract of two hundred and thirty acres on which he is now living retired, in section 30 of the precinct of East Barada, built a house and barn on the same and has since brought the place up to a high state of development and cultivation. He has an excel-



lent farm plant and a good orchard and has long been accounted one of the well-to-do farmers of that part of the county. In addition to his home farm Mr. Gerweck owns a quarter of a section of fine farm land in section 18 of the adjoining precinct of Arago and is quite well circumstanced.

Mr. Gerweck has been twice married. In 1888 he was united in marriage to Mary Harner, who also was born in the grand duchy of Baden, at Odenheim, in the amt of Bruchsal, and who died without issue. Some time later he married Anna Koestel, who was born on June 25, 1875, at Odenheim, amt Bruchsal, Baden, and who died, leaving eight children, namely: Louisa, wife of C. Finck, of Ohio precinct; Albert, of the precinct of Arago; Katherine, wife of J. Cox, of Verdon; Edith, wife of L. Bauman, of Arago precinct; Joseph, on the home place; Amelia, wife of Alex Schultz, of Ohio precinct; Anna, at home, and Anton, on the home farm. Since 1915 Mr. Gerweck has lived practically retired from the active labors of the farm, his sons looking after affairs on his two farms. He is a member of the Catholic church, as was his wife, and their children were reared in that faith. Politically, Mr. Gerweck is an independent Democrat and has ever given proper attention to local civic affairs, but has never been particularly active as a precinct worker in the political field.

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#### BERNARD W. STERNS.

Among the most painstaking and energetic of the younger generation of farmers in Richardson county is Bernard W. Sterns, of Franklin precinct. He was born, April 16, 1882, on the place where he now lives, a son of Mandron M. and Eliza (Green) Sterns. The father was born in January, 1844, in New York state, where also occurred the birth of the mother in April, 1845. They moved to Illinois with their respective parents and there they grew up, married and made their home until they moved to Missouri and emigration set in strongly later to Nebraska, making the journey to Richardson county, in 1872, and taking up their residence on land in Franklin precinct where, through their perseverance and good management they developed a good farm and reared their children, four in number, as follow: Walter D. and Floyd B., both of whom live in Cherry county, Nebraska; Clara E., the wife of John Cornelius, now living in Canada, and Bernard W., the subject of this sketch.

Bernard W. Sterns grew up on the homestead here and attended the

common schools in his vicinity and in the town of Humboldt, later taking a course in a business college in Lincoln. He has always lived on the home farm, which he has kept well improved and well cultivated and has made a success as a general farmer and stock raiser. The place, which belongs to his father and mother, contains two hundred and eighty acres.

Mandron M. Sterns, the father of the subject of this sketch, is the son of Newton and Lucy (Hatch) Sterns, natives of Vermont and New York state, respectively. The Sterns family is of English descent, the earliest ancestor in America coming to New England in early Colonial days—in the year 1630. Newton Sterns was born in 1810. He was a son of Daniel and Elizabeth Sterns, who located in New York state in 1818. Newton Sterns moved to Stephenson county, Illinois, in 1845, and there maintained his home until 1871, when he came to Nebraska and located at Humboldt. He had already become well-to-do and lived a retired life after coming to Richardson county. His death occurred in 1893. His wife had preceded him to the grave in 1873. They were parents of the following children: Mrs. Olive Miller, deceased; Mandron Mason, father of the subject of this sketch; Jeannette, the widow of L. L. Davis; Wallace and Watson, twins, the former of who died in Wyoming in March, 1917, but the latter died in 1878, and Mrs. L. M. Sterns, who lives in Humboldt.

Mandron M. Sterns, after making a comfortable competence in Richardson county, homesteaded a tract of land in Cherry county, Nebraska, and now spends his winters in California. He celebrated his fiftieth wedding anniversary on February 28, 1917, his marriage having occurred in 1867. He has seven grandchildren, namely: Floyd Sterns, Jr., born on March 30, 1903; Stevens Sterns, December 19, 1904, and Bernardine Sterns, 1911, children of Floyd B. Sterns; Bessie May Cornelius, born, May 15, 1909, and Joseph Mandron Sterns, October 19, 1910, two children of John and Clara E. (Sterns) Cornelius, and Ural Sterns and Eula Sterns, children of the immediate subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Mandron M. Sterns have recently bought property in Humboldt and will make their future home in Humboldt.

Bernard W. Sterns was married on November 26, 1907, to Opal T. Wilson, who was born in Richardson county, Nebraska, where she grew to womanhood and attended school. She is a daughter of Lester C. and Emma (Schrader) Wilson, natives of Indiana. The mother was a daughter of Henry C. Schrader, who settled at Barada, Nebraska, in 1868, among the pioneers. Henry C. Schrader built one of the first residences at Stella, Nebraska. Lester C. Wilson lived in Iowa when a young man.



He was born on December 4, 1862, and died on December 29, 1899. His wife, Emma, was born in 1865, and came with her parents to Nebraska in 1868, and here she and Mr. Wilson grew to maturity and were married. Mrs. Wilson has lived in Richardson county over fifty years.

Two children have been born to Bernard W. Sterns and wife, namely: Ural, whose birth occurred on October 11, 1910, and Eula, February 13, 1914. Politically, Mr. Sterns is a Republican: He has traveled extensively over the United States. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church with his family.

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### WILLIAM H. PUTNAM.

A name well known to the people in southeastern Nebraska is that of the late William H. Putnam, former proprietor of the Falls City Bottling Company. He was born in Gloversville, New York, October 5, 1849, a son of Hollis McKinstry Putnam and Charlotte (Lobdell) Putnam. The father, who was of English descent, was born in Albany, New York. The mother, who was of French descent, was born in Canada. Ludwig Putnam, the subjects' paternal great-grandfather, was a brother of Gen. Israel Putnam, of Revolutionary fame, and during the War of 1812 he was killed and scalped by the Indians by the order of the British. Ludwig Putnam had also fought in the Revolutionary War. He was one of a family of thirteen children, eleven of whom were boys, and all were soldiers in our war for independence, seven of them taking part in the famous Boston tea party and in the battle of Bunker Hill. Hollis M. Putnam, mentioned above, was a tanner by trade. He spent his early life in New York state, migrating to Chicago in 1859, and there served on the police force. He finally moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, where he spent his last days at the home of his daughter and died there. His widow survives at this writing, making her home at Knoxville, Iowa. To these parents six children were born, namely: William H., the subject of this sketch; Joseph, who lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Jennie, now deceased, who was the wife of Arthur Rauhos, of Salt Lake City, Utah; Charles, who lives in Chicago; George, who lives in Minneapolis; and Mary, the wife of Frank Wells, of Knoxville, Iowa.

William H. Putnam spent his childhood in New York state, being ten years old when his parents brought him to Chicago, where he remained until 1874. He received a public school education and upon leaving Chicago went to Kendall county, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand; then

rented a farm in Lee county, that state; then moved to Fillmore county, Nebraska, in 1900. He had bought a splendid farm there the year previous. He owned a number of good farms, getting options on them and selling out at a profit. His judgment was never at fault in this line and he prospered. In 1899 he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid the sum of five thousand dollars, and he sold it later for eleven thousand dollars. He sold out in Fillmore county in the fall of 1905, with the exception of one farm, which he sold in 1908. Upon leaving that county he came to Falls City and went into business, also invested in real estate here, becoming the owner of five valuable residence properties. He also was proprietor of the Falls City Bottling Works, which factory he purchased in 1905. He erected for it in 1912 a large and substantial two-story concrete building and installed much new and modern equipment. He manufactured soda water and all kinds of soft drinks and extracts and carried on an extensive trade, building up a prosperous and growing business over a wide territory, supplying Falls City and surrounding towns in Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and Iowa, and since his death the factory is still maintained. Five thousand dollars was invested in the business. Every effort is made to keep the products uniformly pure, every bottle being thoroughly sterilized before filling. Owing to failing health Mr. Putnam retired from the active management of the plant on February 1, 1917, turning the business over to his son, John J. Putnam. In 1915 Mr. Putnam began operating a glove factory in the building adjoining his bottling works and this concern is also prospering and growing in prestige. It is known as the Putnam Glove Company. Seven skilled workmen are constantly employed. The factory is operated by Mr. Putnam's daughter, Charlotte Putnam.

William H. Putnam was married in Chicago, in 1872, to Catherine McNally, who was born in Ireland, from which country she came to the United States when a child. She was born in 1847. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Putnam: William Henry, manager of the Madison-Kipp Lubrication Company, at Madison, Wisconsin; Charles, who is engaged in merchandising in Chicago; John J., who is manager of the Falls City Bottling Works, and Charlotte, who is managing the Putnam Glove Factory. Mr. Putnam died on April 5, 1917.

Politically, Mr. Putnam was a Democrat; fraternally, he belonged to the Modern Woodmen and to the Knights of Columbus. He was a member of the Catholic church. He was a business man of rare foresight and soundness of judgment and had been successful in whatever he turned his atten-



tion to, long having been regarded as one of the most public-spirited citizens of Falls City, which he had done much to promote and advertise. He was a pleasant man to meet and his personal reputation was unassailable.

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### EDWIN HERMAN TOWLE.

Edwin Herman Towle, well-known lumber dealer at Falls City and secretary and manager of the Southeast Nebraska Telephone Company of that city, was born in Falls City and has lived there all his life, long having been recognized as one of the leading factors in the general business life of that city. He was born on September 19, 1869, son of the Hon. Edwin Sargent and Kittie L. (Dorrington) Towle, pioneers of Falls City, who are still living there and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume under a biographical sketch relating to the Hon. Edwin Sargent Towle, first mayor of the city of Falls City, a member of the Nebraska constitutional convention, former speaker of the House in the Nebraska General Assembly and for years one of the most influential business men in southeastern Nebraska.

Reared at Falls City, Edwin H. Towle was graduated from the high school there in 1887, and then entered Northwestern University at Evanston, a suburb of Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1892. Upon completing his schooling Mr. Towle returned to Falls City and there became engaged in the lumber business as a member of the Towle Lumber Company and since 1901 has been manager of the affairs of that company. In 1906 he became connected with the Southeastern Nebraska Telephone Company, in the capacity of secretary and manager of the same, and has since occupied that position, attending to the affairs of the telephone company as well as to his own extensive lumber interests. This telephone company was organized on April 1, 1895, as the Falls City Telephone Company, and was re-organized on May 1, 1906, as the Southeast Nebraska Telephone Company, with eighty-four stockholders and with a capital stock of \$68,666, the present officers of the company being as follow: President, Joseph F. Frederick; vice-president, Aaron W. Loucks; treasurer, W. E. Dorrington; secretary and manager, E. H. Towle, and directors, besides the above officers, Joseph H. Miles, Arthur J. Weaver and Thomas H. Gist. The operations of the Southeast Nebraska Telephone Company cover Richardson county and the company owns all toll lines in the county, together with exchanges at

Salem, Verdon and Barada. It is equipped with the latest appliances for expeditious service, has nearly two thousand subscribers, employs thirty-three persons and has an annual payroll in excess of twenty thousand dollars.

Mr. Towle is a Republican and from the days of his boyhood has given his earnest attention to local political affairs. For two years he served as police judge of the city of Falls City and for some time served as city civil engineer, in that latter capacity having had charge of the first systematic paving in the city in 1910. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and, fraternally, is affiliated with the Masons and with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

On December 9, 1897, Edwin H. Towle was united in marriage to Lillian M. Farington, of Falls City, a daughter of C. W. and Mary Farington, old residents of Falls City, and to this union two children have been born, Mary D. and Edward S.

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#### FRANK P. WILSON.

Frank P. Wilson, farmer and stockman of Falls City precinct, this county, was born on the old homestead in that vicinity on January 22, 1882, on the farm which he now owns. He is a son of Robert P. and Adaline (Gardner) Wilson. The father was born in Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, December 29, 1845, and died on June 13, 1894. He moved to Mt. Vernon, Ohio, with his parents when young and his father and mother spent the rest of their lives in that state. Robert P. Wilson came to Nebraska in 1872 and, in Richardson county, bought a tract of school land which he transformed by hard and persistent work into the present well-improved and productive farm. There was an old frame house on the land, which had been used for a vinegar factory, and he lived in it for some time. The present comfortable Wilson home was built in 1893 and contains ten rooms, being located in the midst of pleasant surroundings. Mr. Wilson made extensive improvements in various ways and set out about eight acres of orchard and a grove of shade trees. He owned one hundred and sixty acres, forty acres of which now belong to his daughter, Mrs. Mabel Boose. His wife, Adaline Gardner, was born in Union county, Indiana, November 26, 1846, and her death occurred on January 14, 1913. To them two children were born, Frank P., the subject of this sketch,



and Mabel, wife of Doctor Boose, of Falls City, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work. The ancestors of both Robert P. Wilson and wife came to America in the "Mayflower" and thus both sides of the house date back to our earliest Colonial history. Frank P. Wilson has in his possession a pewter mug which has been handed down since the year 1620.

Frank P. Wilson was reared on the home farm and attended high school in Falls City. He has always lived on the home farm, which he has kept well improved and under a high state of cultivation. He owns one hundred and twenty acres in section 16, and has made a success as a general farmer and stock raiser.

On October 11, 1911, Frank P. Wilson was married to Jesta Houck, a daughter of John and Elnora (Tipton) Houck, natives of Ohio, where they spent their earlier years. They came to Brown county, Kansas, in 1884, and two years later established their home in Richardson county, Nebraska. Mr. Houck has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, but is now living in retirement in Salem, this county. Mrs. Wilson was born in Gallia county, Ohio, January 21, 1881. She was reared on the farm and was educated in the public schools and in the Hiawatha (Kansas) Academy. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, namely: John R., Francis P., Stella W., and one who died in infancy, unnamed. Politically, Mr. Wilson is a Republican. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his wife is a member of the Baptist church.

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#### HON. ARTHUR J. WEAVER.

Hon. Arthur J. Weaver, vice-president of the First National Bank of Falls City, is a native son of Nebraska and a scion of an old American family, whose forbears were pioneers in the famous Wyoming valley of Pennsylvania. His career in his native county has been such as to deserve approbation and to reflect credit upon his ancestry and himself. Having served the people of Richardson county in the halls of the state Legislature and taken an active and influential part in the civic, commercial and agricultural development of the county, his position as one of the real leaders of the community is assured and definite. Primarily, Mr. Weaver is a farmer and he and his brother are probably the most extensive orchardists and stock growers in southeastern Nebraska. Weaver brothers rank as the



*A. J. Wearn.*





most successful fruit growers in the state and have extensive land holdings, which are managed ably and successfully. Mr. Weaver was born in Falls City, November 18, 1873, and is a son of Judge Archibald J. Weaver, deceased, and Martha A. Weaver, residing in Falls City. His father was one of the prominent and outstanding figures of the early civic and political life of Richardson county. He filled the office of judge of the district court with such pronounced ability that his constituents elected him representative from the first Nebraska district in the national Congress. Extended mention of the life and activities of Judge Weaver are given elsewhere in this volume.

Arthur J. Weaver received his primary education in the public schools of his native city and pursued his preparatory course in Wyoming Seminary, at Kingston, Pennsylvania, from which institution he was graduated in 1892. He then entered the University of Nebraska and was graduated therefrom with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1895. Continuing his studies in the law department of the university, he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1896. As a student, athlete and orator he took first rank while in the university. He served as manager of the Nebraska football team and was influential in having the first football coach installed in a seat of learning west of the Mississippi river. His activity in athletic sports elevated, or was influential in advancing, the athletic standing of Nebraska University. He attained renown as an orator and for two years in succession made the opening and closing addresses in the interstate college debates in which his *alma mater* participated. His team won the debate presided over by William J. Bryan in May, 1896. Following his admission to the bar he practiced law successfully for eight years in his native city and built up an extensive practice. He served three terms as city attorney, was elected to represent Richardson county in the state Legislature in 1898 and served during the session of 1899. During this session he introduced and secured the passage of the bill providing for the permanent location of the state agricultural exposition at Lincoln, and served as a member of the judiciary and other important committees. He was elected to county attorney in 1900 and served for two years. He became a member of the city council of Falls City in 1910 and served as an active member and president of that body until 1916. It was during his incumbency in this office that the great improvements in Falls City, such as paving, sewerage, and the like were undertaken and completed, Mr. Weaver occupying the important post of chairman of the finance committee during this period.



Mr. Weaver's farming and financial interests now occupy the greater part of his time and attention. As vice-president and manager of the First National Bank of Falls City, a position which he has held since 1912, his place in the financial world is an important one. He and his brother, Paul B. Weaver, operating under the name of Weaver brothers, own and manage over three thousand acres of land in Richardson county, two hundred acres of which is in producing apple orchards. Weaver brothers' orchards probably produce more high-grade commercial fruit than any other orchards in the state, their output exceeding fifty to one hundred carloads annually. The orchards are famous for the high standard quality of the fruit shipped. Two thousand hogs are raised and marketed annually from their stock farms. Five hundred cattle are raised and fattened for market on their ranges and in their feeding sheds. The payroll of this extensive agricultural plant exceeds one hundred dollars a day to the hands employed, or more than forty thousand dollars annually. Mr. Weaver is associated with former Gov. John H. Morehead in farming, orcharding, stock raising and timber interests in Nebraska and other states. Mr. Weaver, with others, organized the National Bank of Humboldt and later sold it. He is a member of the State Horticultural Association and served as vice-president of the Farmers industrial congress held at St. Joseph in 1913 and 1914, at which meetings he delivered addresses. Although frequently called upon to speak before various important gatherings held in important cities of the country at different times he has been forced in most cases to decline because of the press of business affairs. In 1897 Mr. Weaver was married to Persa Morris, of Humboldt, a graduate of the Nebraskan Wesleyan University, who died in January, 1906. Mr. Weaver was again married, September 2, 1908, to Maude E. Hart, of White Pigeon, Michigan, daughter of Capt. B. F. Hart and Harriet Hart. Captain Hart served as captain of a Michigan volunteer regiment during the Civil War. At the time of her marriage, Mrs. Weaver was engaged as a teacher in the public schools of Falls City. Four children have blessed this union, namely: Maude Harriet, born on September 14, 1909; Dorothy Jane, July 11, 1911; Arthur, Jr., November 19, 1912, and Ruth, November 22, 1914.

Mr. Weaver is a Republican, has generally taken an active and influential interest in the affairs of his party and has served on the Republican state committee has a member from the first senatorial district. The members of his family attend the Presbyterian church, with which religious denomination they are affiliated. He is a Knight Templar and Scottish Rite (thirty-second degree) Mason and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of

Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and is also affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and various fraternal insurance orders. Mr. Weaver is a native Nebraskan, who saw opportunity in the development of his native county and state, grasped it, and with decided ability and characteristic energy achieved a striking success, proper note of the achievement of which is deserving a place in the annals of his native county, to which he is intensely loyal.

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### JOSEPH G. HEIM.

Joseph G. Heim, of Dawson, this county, is a man of varied attainments in the agricultural life of the community in which he resides. As a farmer, breeder of cattle, hogs and sheep, as well as fruit growing, his life may be described as a busy one. He was born on March 9, 1857, in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, the son of Jacob G. and Regina (Gross) Heim, also natives of that same county and state.

Jacob G. Heim was born on June 15, 1832, in Pennsylvania, the son of Gottleib and Margaret (Steiger) Heim, who were natives of Wurtemberg, Germany, and who came to the United States about 1808. Jacob G. Heim, who followed the occupation of farming all his life, came to Nebraska in 1874. He located on section 15, Grant township, this county, and bought four hundred acres of land. His first experience in this place was somewhat unfortunate, as he lost the whole of his first year's crops, the grasshoppers eating every growing thing on his land. This experience, however, was not repeated and he continued to farm with much success up to the time of his retirement. A few years before his death he moved to Dawson; later he moved to the farm home of Emanuel Ulmer and died there in 1914. His wife, Regina (Gross) Heim, a daughter of Joseph and Christena (Ulmer) Gross, was born on July 13, 1835, and is now living with her daughter, Mrs. Sarah Ulmer, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. Her parents were also natives of Lycoming county, Pennsylvania. Jacob G. and Regina Heim were the parents of eleven children, four of whom are deceased, the others being Joseph G., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Sarah Ulmer, who lives in Grant township; Samuel F.; Jonathan W.; Rebecca, the wife of Jacob S. Heim; Sophia, who married Martin D. Ulmer; and Maggie, who married Thomas Wuster, and all of whom are living in Grant township, this county.

Joseph G. Heim came to Nebraska with his parents in 1874, he then



being seventeen years of age. In 1882 he rented land from his father and in 1884 he bought his first farm in section 10, Grant precinct. The tract was all unimproved and he set to work to bring it into a state fit for cultivation. He built a substantial house, put up three barns and set out ten acres to an orchard for fruit growing, in which he has been very successful, selling his fruit locally and shipping large quantities. He is regarded as one of the most progressive fruit growers in this part of the state.

Mr. Heim's entire acreage in sections 10, 26 and 27, in Grant township, amounts to two hundred and forty acres of choice land, all of which with the exception of the portion set out to the orchard, is operated for general farming purposes. He is an extensive breeder of Holstein cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs and has an excellent strain of pure-bred Shropshire sheep, several of which he keeps for breeding purposes. For several years Mr. Heim has been a member of the Shropshire Breeders Association of Lafayette, Indiana. In all his varied business activities he has shown much enterprise and sound judgment.

On December 22, 1881, Joseph G. Heim was united in marriage to Rosa Heim, daughter of John and Margaret (Heim) Heim, who came to Richardson county in 1881, the year of their daughter's marriage to Mr. Heim. John Heim is dead and his widow is now living on the farm in section 15, Grant township. Joseph G. Heim and wife are the parents of six children, namely: Mrs. Bertha Shively, of Calloway, this state; Mrs. May Belden, of Grant township; Emerson, who lives on the homestead in Grant township; Olive and John, both deceased, and Alice, who is attending high school. The Heim family are members of the United Evangelical church and are active in all its good works.

Mr. Heim is a Republican and gives active support to that party, though sometimes voting the independent ticket. For two years he acted as township assessor, giving general satisfaction in that office. He was elected to the Dawson school board about twenty years ago and has been an active worker on the board during that time, serving as president of the board for several years. In 1892 Mr. Heim became superintendent of the Sunday school attached to the United Evangelical church at Dawson, and has continued since in that capacity. He increased the membership of the classes from twenty-five to over two hundred, thus giving evidence of his zeal on behalf of the Sunday school. He is also a trustee of the church. In June, 1916, Mr. Heim moved to Dawson, where he built a modern and well-equipped bungalow and where he and his family are comfortably situated.

## WILLIAM CADE.

The late William Cade, one of the pioneers of Richardson county and former member of the board of county commissioners, an honored veteran of the Civil War and a well-to-do retired farmer, who died at his home in Falls City in 1908, his widow still residing in that city, was a native of the old Buckeye state and later a resident of Iowa, but had lived in this part of the country since pioneer days, having settled in Washington county, Kansas, in 1870, coming thence in 1880 up into Nebraska and locating in the precinct of Nemaha, this county, one of the pioneers of that section of the county, and remaining there until his retirement in the fall of 1892 and removal to Falls City, where he spent his last days, one of the best-known citizens of Richardson county.

William Cade was born in Ohio on February 9, 1834, and in childhood was left an orphan, being thereafter compelled to "hustle" for himself. As a young man he came West and began to work as a farm hand in Iowa, where he was living when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted for service as a member of Company H, Thirty-sixth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and with that command served for three years, participating in some of the most notable battles and engagements of the war, but was never wounded nor taken prisoner. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Cade returned to Iowa and was there married early in 1867, continuing to make his home in Iowa until 1870, when he and his wife and their two small children came over to this part of the country and settled on an unbroken tract of land south of Hanover, in Washington county, Kansas, where they remained for ten years. Upon settling there they threw up a sod shanty on the plain and there established their home, continuing to use that humble habitation as a place of residence until presently Mr. Cade sold a team of horses and thus secured funds with which to erect a small frame house. That sod shanty had a plank floor, however, a luxury not enjoyed by all the early settlers of the plains country who had their "day of small things" in this primitive sort of a home. During the second year of their residence in Kansas the season was so dry that Mr. and Mrs. Cade came over the line up into Nebraska and took employment on the construction of the Burlington & Missouri River railroad, then making its way across through this county between Salem and Dawson, Mr. Cade using his two teams and Mrs. Cade taking care of boarders in a shack. At the end of the season they returned to their homestead in Kansas with money enough to tide them through the



winter. During the grasshopper visitation in that section Mr. Cade's corn crop was devoured, but he had some reserve wheat in store and with this he fed his cattle, thus managing to get through that period of hardship that destroyed the hopes of so many Kansas and Nebraska homesteaders. In 1880 Mr. Cade sold his Kansas farm to advantage and moved over the line into Nebraska, buying a tract of two hundred and forty acres, a quarter of a section and an "eighty" in the precinct of Nemaha, east of Mins City, in Richardson county, building a house and barn on the "eighty." There he continued to live, improving and developing the place, until failing health necessitated his retirement from the farm, and on October, 1892, he moved to Falls City, where the rest of his life was spent. Upon retiring he sold his land in Nemaha precinct and invested in land in Osborne county, Kansas, which investments turned out very well, his widow now being the owner there of one thousand acres of excellent land, divided into four farms of two hundred and fifty acres each, which are managed by her sons. Mr. Cade was a Republican and ever took an earnest part in local civic affairs, for some time having served as a member of the board of county commissioners. He was an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Falls City and took a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization, and after his death on December 31, 1908, his remains were laid away with the full honors of the post, his surviving comrades paying their last formal tribute of respect to his memory at his graveside.

On February 21, 1867, at Keosauqua, Iowa, William Cade was united in marriage to Margaret Elliot, who was born in Scotland, February 21, 1846, daughter of Robert and Margaret Elliot, also natives of Scotland, who came to the United States with their family in 1852 and after a sometime residence in the state of Ohio moved to Iowa, where they established their home. To William and Margaret (Elliot) Cade five children were born, namely: George, a farmer, of Franklin county, Kansas, who married Ella Smith; Eva, wife of Alfred Dowell, of Council Bluffs, Iowa; William, a farmer, of Osborne county, Kansas; Mrs. Ethel Simpson, of Gering, this state, and Walter, who is now living in the West. Mrs. Cade has a very pleasant home in Falls City and her granddaughter, Laura Cade, is now making her home with her. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the various beneficences of which she has for many years taken an active interest, and is also a member of the local corps of the Woman's Relief Corps, in the affairs of which she continues to take an active interest. As one of the pioneers of the plains she has many vivid recollections of the days of hardship and privation through

which the pioneers passed, but in reviewing those days through the mists of the years that have since passed she does not hesitate to declare that they were happy years, despite the physical discomfort that attended the manner in which the pioneers were compelled to live, and despite the poverty of their means.

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### JOHN W. RIESCHICK.

John W. Rieschick, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in section 22 of the precinct of Ohio, and one of the best-known farmers and stockmen of that part of Richardson county, a prize corn grower and an active member of the Poland China Record Association, was born in the neighboring precinct of Arago and has lived in that neighborhood practically all his life. He was born on April 14, 1870, son of William and Verena (Hunzeker) Rieschick, pioneers of this county, who are now living retired at Falls City and further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume.

Reared on the farm in which he was born in Arago precinct, John W. Rieschick received his early schooling in the district schools of that neighborhood and supplemented the same by a course in Ritner's Commercial College at St. Joseph, Missouri, from which he was graduated in 1891. Thus qualified for a mercantile career he went to Buffalo, New York, in which city his father had for a while made his home after coming to this country, and was there engaged as a clerk in a grocery store for eighteen months, at the end of which time he returned to the home farm in this county, and was there engaged in helping in the improvement and development of the home place until his marriage in the fall of 1898, when he established his home on his present place in the precinct of Ohio. At that time he bought forty acres and as he prospered in his undertakings bought an adjoining "forty". He later inherited a similar tract and is thus now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of fine land in section 22, in addition to which he is farming an adjoining "eighty," and is doing very well. Mr. Rieschick is one of the best corn farmers in Nebraska and is the winner of the 1915 first prize at the state corn show for the best ten ears of corn in the amateur class. About 1903 he began to go in for the breeding of high-grade live stock and has done well in that line, his specialty being Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs, and he is a member of the Poland China Record Association, in the affairs of which organization he takes an active interest. He also is giving considerable attention to the raising of Barred Plymouth Rock poultry.



Since taking possession of his farm Mr. Rieschick has made substantial improvements on the same, including a large and modern dwelling house, a fifty-by-sixty barn, a modern hay and cattle barn and an ample machine shed, and has one of the best farm plants in that part of the county.

On October 27, 1898, John W. Rieschick was united in marriage to Emma Hahn, who also was born in Arago precinct, April 25, 1876, a daughter of Henry and Dora (Doeman) Hahn, the latter of whom was born in that same precinct, a member of one of Richardson county's first families. Henry Hahn came to this county from Germany, married here and became a substantial farmer of the precinct of Arago. Mr. and Mrs. Rieschick have six children, Anna, Elsie, Walter, Dora, Hilda and Carl. They are members of the Lutheran church and take an interested part in church work, as well as in other neighborhood good works and the general social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in promoting all measures having to do with the advancement of the common welfare. Politically, Mr. Rieschick is a Republican and has ever taken a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs.

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#### GEORGE W. HOLLAND.

George W. Holland, cashier of the Richardson County Bank of Falls City and for years one of the most substantial and influential citizens of this county, former member of the city council at Falls City, an extensive landowner and in numerous ways identified with the more substantial interests of this community, is a native of the neighboring state of Iowa, but has been a resident of Falls City since the days of his young manhood. He was born in Lee county, in the extreme southeastern corner of Iowa, June 13, 1852, son of the Rev. Benjamin and Mildred (Patton) Holland, natives of Ohio and both representatives of old Colonial families and ancestors of whom, on both sides, rendered valuable service to the colonies during the War of the Revolution. The progenitor of this branch of the Holland family in America was a member of the company which accompanied Lord Baltimore to the colony which was granted him over here. He settled on the Isle of Wight, in Chesapeake Bay, and established his home there, his descendants in the present generation forming a numerous family, widely scattered throughout the United States. The Rev. Benjamin Holland was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, who left Ohio in 1843 and

came West, settling in Lee county, Iowa, where for years he was active as a circuit rider and where he and his wife spent their last days, useful and influential residents of that community. They were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born.

Reared in Iowa, George W. Holland completed his schooling in the Iowa Wesleyan University at Mt. Pleasant, from which he was graduated in 1876. In that same year he was called to Nebraska to take the position of principals of the schools at Falls City and for two years was thus engaged. He then returned to Iowa and at Ottumwa began the study of law and presently was admitted to the bar and entered upon the practice of his profession at Osceola, where he remained for two years, at the end of which time, in 1880, he returned to Falls City, where he married and where, in that same year, he assisted in the organization of the Richardson County Bank and was made cashier of the same, a position he ever since has occupied, Mr. Holland's activities as a banker at Falls City thus having covered a period of more than thirty-seven years, during which time he has come to be regarded as one of the leaders in financial and commercial circles throughout this part of the state. In addition to his extensive banking interests, Mr. Holland is the owner of land in Harvey and Coffey counties, Kansas, and has other valuable interests hereabout. He is a Republican and has ever given his earnest personal attention to local civic affairs, but the only public offices he has held have been as a member of the city council and as a member of the city school board, in both of which capacities he has rendered valuable service to the public, doing well his part in extending and advancing the interests of the city of which he has for so long been one of the most vital factors in a business way.

As noted above, it was in 1880 that George W. Holland was united in marriage in Falls City. His wife, who was Ida S. Schock before her marriage, was born in Ohio, a daughter of William Schock and wife, now deceased, who came to Nebraska from Ohio in 1874 and became early and prominent residents of Falls City. Mr. and Mrs. Holland have three daughters, Mrs. R. L. DePatron, a graduate of the Nebraska State University, who is now living at Lincoln; Mildred, also a graduate of the State University, and Gladys, who is now a student at the University. The Hollands are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and have ever taken an earnest part in church work and in the general good works of the community, as well as in the general social and cultural activities of their home town. Mr. Holland is a Knight Templar and Royal Arch Mason and has for years taken a warm interest in local Masonic affairs.



## IRVIN C. MAUST.

Through perseverance and good management, Irvin C. Maust, of Falls City, has succeeded in building up a large trade in the coal, ice and wood business. He was born, May 15, 1868, in Myersdale, Somerset county, Pennsylvania. He is a son of Elias A. and Savilla (Miller) Maust, natives of Pennsylvania, the former of whom was born on March 23, 1839, and the latter, July 27, 1849. Mr. and Mrs. Maust are pioneer residents of Richardson county and Falls City and the elder Maust was engaged in the grain and live stock business for many years. Further and fitting mention of them is made elsewhere in this volume. Irvin C. Maust was associated with his father in the grain and live stock business in Falls City from 1892 to 1905 under the firm name of E. A. Maust & Son. In 1905 his father retired and Albert Maust was taken into the firm under the name of Maust Brothers, which lasted until 1911, when the firm dissolved and I. C. Maust has since conducted the business alone.

Irvin C. Maust was three years old when his parents brought him to Nebraska, in 1871, establishing the family home in Falls City, where he grew to manhood and attended the city schools. When fifteen years old he began working in the Union Hotel as porter, later engaged in various kinds of work, including employment for some time in a general store. He later located at Manley, Nebraska, in the elevator business and there bought grain on an extensive scale until 1892, when he returned to Falls City and in association with his father engaged in the coal, ice and wood business, which he has since followed, and has enjoyed a good trade from the start, which has increased constantly. He keeps a large yard and barn and handles these three commodities in big quantities. From time to time he has invested in good real estate and now owns considerable valuable property in Falls City.

Politically, Mr. Maust is a Democrat and he has long been more or less active and influential in party affairs. He served as a member of the city council several different times, from 1903 to 1908, always looking out for the best interests of the people in his vicinity and for the general upbuilding of Falls City. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, also the Encampment, the Knights of Pythias, the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights Templar, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

On May 18, 1892, Irvin C. Maust was married to S. Blanche Norris,







JAMES S. EVERTS.

who was born in Falls City, January 27, 1872, and is a daughter of Benjamin F. and Mary L. (Whitmore) Norris, the former of whom was born on February 12, 1846, and the latter, October 19, 1849. Mr. and Mrs. Norris were parents of five children, four sons and a daughter. Three of the Norris boys are railway engineers, and another son, Jacob C., is a real-estate agent, located at Hardin, Montana. Mrs. Maust was graduated from the Falls City high school, and also was graduated from the Campbell Normal School at Holton, Kansas. She taught school in the public schools of Falls City for five years prior to her marriage. She is associated with Mr. Maust in their business.

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### JAMES SAMUEL EVERTS.

Few names are held in better remembrance hereabout than that of the late James Samuel Everts, who became a resident of Richardson county in 1881 and whose influence in the agricultural life of this region is still reflected from many angles, that influence ever having been exerted in behalf of the promotion of better methods of farming and stock raising. The famous "Louieland Farms" on which Mr. Everts made his home for many years and which he brought up to a high state of development, bespeak the excellence of the methods he brought to bear on the development of that place. It also is undoubted that he did much—perhaps as much as any other man in this section, to improve the strains of live stock throughout this part of the country and thereby laid the whole agricultural community of this region under a debt of gratitude which will not be forgotten. Upon retiring from "Louieland Farms" Mr. Everts moved to Omaha, where he became engaged in business and where he spent his last days, his death occurring there in 1908.

James Samuel Everts was a native of the great Empire state, having been born at East Otto, in Cattaraugus county, New York, March 25, 1844, son of Samuel Charles and Ruth (Barrett) Everts, the former a native of the state of Vermont and the latter, of Massachusetts, whose last days were spent at Geneva, Illinois, Mrs. Ruth Everts dying there on May 9, 1856. She was born at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in 1809, and was a member of an old Colonial family, as was her husband. The latter was born in Vermont and died on August 6, 1888. To him and his wife were born five children, of whom the subject of this memorial sketch was the last-born, the others



being as follow: Charles, born on October 5, 1828; Cornelia, May 14, 1833; Louis H., April 14, 1836, and Francis, June 11, 1841. The two elder of these brothers served as soldiers of the Union during the Civil War.

James S. Everts spent his youth on a farm near Geneva, Illinois, and there received his schooling. He was well trained in the ways of practical farming and in 1881 came to Nebraska and became a partner in the operation of the great "Louieland Farms," a tract of eighteen hundred acres four miles southwest of Falls City, in this county, where he established his home and where he remained until the spring of 1893, when he retired from the farm and for a few years thereafter was engaged in the map business; but later returned to Falls City and after a brief residence there went to Omaha, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in January, 1908. At the time of his death he was a stockholder in and vice-president of the Nebraska Bridge Supply and Lumber Company, of Omaha. Upon coming to Richardson county, Mr. Everts brought with him not only the best live stock, but an accurate knowledge of the most scientific methods of farming and stock raising and it was not long until the work he was doing on "Louieland Farms" began to attract general attention hereabout, his stallions, in particular, becoming famous all over southeastern Nebraska. Mr. Everts was instrumental in organizing the Southeast Nebraska Fair Association and for years was president of the same. His horses, cattle and hogs were widely exhibited at local fairs throughout this part of the country and at the Nebraska state fair at Lincoln and were always among the prize winners. Mr. Everts was a Republican, but did not give more than the average good citizen's attention to local political affairs, preferring to give his attention to the affairs of his farm and such other interests as he was developing meanwhile. He and his wife were members of the Congregational church.

James S. Everts was married at Geneva, Illinois, near which place he lived on a farm, to Marietta Abbott, who was born at that place on August 7, 1848, daughter of Allison and Marietta (Warner) Abbott, who were the parents of two children, Mrs. Everts having had a brother, Hiram Emery Abbott. To Mr. and Mrs. Everts were born two daughters, Mrs. Ruth Marietta Storrs, born on May 6, 1871, and Naomi Frances, March 19, 1873, wife of John W. Towle, of Omaha. Mrs. Everts died on August 14, 1900. Mr. Everts was always loyal to Falls City and his old friends in this county and even after leaving here delighted to return to the scenes of his earlier activities and renew old acquaintances. For many years he was a member of the famous Falls City Gun Club and took much pleasure in the activities of that organization.

## WARREN HUTCHINS.

Warren Hutchins, banker and retired farmer, now living at Falls City, and one of Richardson county's most substantial pioneer citizens, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of this county since pioneer days and therefore has seen this region develop from its wilderness state to its present high state of development along all lines. He was born on a farm in Ashtabula county, Ohio, October 8, 1844, son of Avery M. and Sarah (Cleveland) Hutchins, the former a native of the Dominion of Canada and the latter of the state of New York, both of old New England stock and of Revolutionary descent, who later came to Nebraska and settled in this county, where their last days were spent.

Avery M. Hutchins was born at Hatley, in Stanstead county, Quebec, January 12, 1809, son of Amos Hutchins and wife, natives of Maine, who had settled there after their marriage. Amos Hutchins was a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War and his father was the captain of a company during that struggle for the independence of the colonies. For service rendered in the army Amos Hutchins was given a grant of land in the Western Reserve in Ohio and returned from Canada to settle on the same, establishing his home in Ashtabula county, Ohio, where his son, Avery M., grew to manhood and married Sarah Cleveland, who was born in New York state in 1810, also of Revolutionary parentage and whose parents likewise had settled on a land grant in Ashtabula county, in the Western Reserve. In 1856 Avery M. Hutchins left Ohio with his family and moved to Clayton county, Iowa, where he settled on a pioneer farm, which he developed and on which he continued to make his home until 1869, in which year he came to Nebraska and bought a farm in the precinct of Barada, this county, where he established his home and where he spent the remainder of his life. His wife died on that pioneer farm in 1879 and he survived her for more than ten years, his death occurring on October 1, 1890. They were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being as follow: Lovica, deceased; Lovica, second, who married J. A. Clark and died in Minnesota; Lucia, who married W. J. Reymish and lives at Liberty, in Gage county, this state, and Adella, wife of Edward Rogers, of Lyon county, Iowa.

Warren Hutchins was twelve years of age when his parents moved from Ohio and in the latter state he completed his schooling. Being the only son in the family he was an able assistant to his father in the labors of the



farm and when he was twenty-five years of age accompanied his father to this state and settled in the precinct of Barada. Soon after coming here he secured a farm of eighty acres of his own in that precinct and after his marriage in 1874 established his home there. Though he had much faith in this country from the day of his arrival and from the very first was able to discern the immense possibilities that awaited the courageous and energetic pioneer, that faith was severely shaken during the days of the grasshopper visitation and there were times he wished he could sell and get out, but he stuck to it and presently began to prosper and it was not long until he was looked upon as one of the leading farmers in that section. As he prospered he gradually added to his holdings until he became the owner of more than eight hundred acres of excellent land, including a tract of a half a section over in the adjoining county of Nemaha. In 1903 Mr. Hutchins retired from the farm and he and his wife spent the following winter in California. They then returned and established their home in Falls City, where Mrs. Hutchins died a year or two later and where Mr. Hutchins continues to reside, being very comfortably situated there. In addition to his extensive agricultural interests, Mr. Hutchins has for years been actively identified with the banking interests of this county. From the date of its organization he was a member of the board of directors of the Richardson County Bank of Falls City and is still interested in that sound old financial institution. From the date of its organization until January 1, 1917, he served as president of the Farmers State Bank of Shubert, in which he still retains an interest, and is also a stockholder in the State Bank at Stella. Politically, Mr. Hutchins is an "independent" and has ever given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and in the affairs of these organizations takes a warm interest.

On February 5, 1874, Warren Hutchins was united in marriage to Rachel E. Slocum, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1851 and who was a sister of J. L. Slocum, a biographical sketch of whom, presented elsewhere in this volume, gives details of the Slocum family, one of the pioneer families of Richardson county. Mrs. Hutchins died in 1905, leaving four children, namely: Guy S. Hutchins, cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Shubert, who married Clara Shafer and has two children, Hazel and Harlan; Sarah, wife of I. N. Lyon, of Falls City, proprietor of an extensive ranch in Wyoming; Ethel, wife of John W. Roberts, who is connected with the

work of the department of agriculture at Washington, D. C., his duties having special reference to the forestry and fruit section of that department, and James, born on March 17, 1893, who died on February 5, 1912.

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### ROY W. FOUTS, M. D.

One of the most promising of the younger physicians of Richardson county is Dr. Roy W. Fouts, of Dawson, who is also well-known in business circles there. He was born in Davis county, Iowa, May 10, 1885, a son of Allen R. and Elizabeth (Mitchell) Fouts. The father was born, December 20, 1863, a son of Jesse and Elizabeth (McCullough) Fouts, natives of Indiana and early settlers of Davis county, Iowa, where they spent the rest of their lives and where their son, Allen R. Fouts, still makes his home on a farm. The mother, who was born in October, 1867, is a daughter of Thomas and Martha (Pickler) Mitchell, also natives of Indiana and early settlers of Iowa, where they spent the rest of their lives. Nine children, seven of whom are still living, were born to Allen R. Fouts and wife, the subject of this sketch being the second oldest in order of birth.

Soon after leaving college Doctor Fouts began the practice of medicine and there he attended the common schools, and later a business college at Bloomfield, that state, from which he was graduated in 1902. He then taught school five terms, but, although he was making a success as an educator, he decided that his true bent lay in another direction and in 1905 he entered the Keokuk Medical College at Keokuk, Iowa. Later he studied at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois, from which institution he was graduated, June 3, 1909, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Soon after leaving college Dr. Fouts began the practice of medicine at Olds, Iowa, but on August 1, 1909, he moved to Dawson, Richardson county, Nebraska, where he has since engaged successfully in general practice, devoting considerable attention to surgery.

Doctor Fouts was married on November 15, 1903, to Edna J. Johnson, who was born in Davis county, Iowa, a daughter of U. G. and Ella (Johnson) Johnson, natives of Iowa and Missouri, respectively. Three children have been born to Doctor Fouts and wife, namely: Xenia Aileen, Lowell W., and Leon G. The last two named are twins.

Politically, Doctor Fouts is a Democrat. He was formerly a member of the town council of Dawson, also served as mayor, has been president of



the local board of education for the past six years and has done much for the general good of the town. He is a member of the Richardson County Medical Society, the Nebraska Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

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### ORION OLE MARSH.

Orion Ole Marsh, the efficient and capable county clerk of Richardson county, is a native born Nebraskan and a son of one of the oldest Nebraska pioneers, his parents having settled at old St. Derooin, on the banks of the Missouri river, in 1859, at a period when this now almost forgotten river village was in the heyday of its prosperity and was an important steamboat town. Mr. Marsh was born on a farm near Verdon, in Richardson county, November 18, 1871, and is a son of William Sumner and Lillie Lucretia Marsh, who still reside upon their farm in Muddy precinct and are counted among the most respected and oldest pioneer residents of this county. The senior Marsh is a veteran of the Civil War, born in Wisconsin, a son of Elijah S. and Rachel (Calvert) Marsh, both of whom were descended from old American families. Besides Orion O. Marsh the other members of the family of William Sumner Marsh are as follow: William E. Marsh, of Shubert, Nebraska; Mrs. Josephine G. Ray, of Verdon, Nebraska, and George Roy Marsh, of Lewistown, Montana. Further and fitting mention of William Sumner Marsh is made elsewhere in this volume.

Orion O. Marsh was reared on a pioneer farm in Richardson county and received his early education in the district schools, followed by a course of study in the Verdon high school. He began teaching school when twenty years of age and taught a total of one hundred and thirteen months in the schools of his native county, varying the time with farming activities. Mr. Marsh taught school during the winter months and followed farming during the summer months, thus keeping himself diligently employed during the entire year. He further fitted himself for the teaching profession by a course of study and training at the State Normal at Peru, and continued teaching successfully until 1908, in which year he decided to devote his attention entirely to farming. The lure of the school room was too strong for him, however, and he again taught a term of school during the winter of 1913-14. Mr. Marsh has been a continuous resident of Richardson county since his birth, with the exception of seven years spent in Chase county, Nebraska,



ORION O. MARSH AND FAMILY.





in developing a Kinkaid homestead claim. He is interested in farming and is the owner of seven hundred and seventy acres of Western lands.

Mr. Marsh's teaching experience gave him a wide and favorable acquaintance throughout the county and he made many warm and steadfast friends. It was only natural that a man of his abilities and attainments should take an active part in civic and political matters and he served as assessor of Muddy precinct for eight years in succession. In November of 1914 he was nominated as the candidate of the Republican party for the office of county clerk and was successful in the election. He was re-elected to this important office in 1916 and his conduct of the duties of this important office has been eminently satisfactory to the people of the county regardless of political affiliations, he being recognized as a very capable and obliging county official. In addition to his official duties Mr. Marsh is serving as a member of the local exemption board, which has charge of the task of examining the young men conscripted for the selective draft army, which is being raised to fight the battles of the free peoples of the world in Europe.

On June 18, 1908, at Lincoln, Nebraska, Mr. Marsh was married to Ellen Elizabeth Thomas. One child has blessed this marriage, namely: Harper Thomas Marsh, who was born on December 28, 1909. Mrs. Marsh was born at Corning, Adams county, Iowa, February 18, 1877, was educated in the State University at Lincoln, Nebraska, and has been a successful teacher in the public schools of Richardson county, she having taught a total of one hundred months in various schools in Nebraska. She is a daughter of David L. and Eleanor I. (Jones) Thomas, the former of whom was born in Cardiganshire, Wales, March 9, 1849. When three years of age he was brought to America by his parents, the family settling in Wisconsin, where he was married to Eleanor I. Jones, who was born at Spring Green, Sauk county, Wisconsin, March 30, 1858. The Thomas family removed from Wisconsin to Iowa in 1875 and resided in that state, engaged in farming, until 1879, when they came to Nebraska. They were successfully engaged in farming in Richardson county until 1903, when Mr. and Mrs. Thomas removed to Lincoln, Nebraska, where they now reside. A most notable accomplishment on their part is the rearing of a family of well-educated sons and daughters as follow: Mrs. Ellen Elizabeth Marsh; Prof. David E. Thomas, a graduate of the University of Nebraska and of Yale University, who received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the University of Nebraska, the degree of Bachelor of Divinity from Yale, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Chicago University, and who spent three years



as a member of the faculty of the college at Le Mars, Iowa, part of which time he served as president of the college, and is now serving his fourth year as professor at Edmonton College, Alberta, Canada, and is acting president of this college during the present year; H. May Thomas, teacher of English in the Moody Institute, Chicago, Illinois; John Willard Thomas, county superintendent of schools at Sisseton, South Dakota; James Lloyd Thomas, a teacher and farmer living at University Place, Nebraska; Margaret G., deceased; Mrs. Merle (Thomas) Rice, a missionary in India, who has spent three years in the service of the missions department of the Christian denomination, and Dwight P. Thomas, senior at the State University at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Marsh is affiliated fraternally with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Falls City. He also is a warm supporter of religious works, and Mrs. Thomas is a member of the United Evangelical church. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh take an active part in social affairs in Falls City and have a host of friends and well wishers, who esteem them for their many good qualities. Their home, at 1902 Morton street is a pleasant and hospitable one, and there their friends and acquaintances are always warmly welcomed.

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#### WILLIAM D. EASLEY.

"Through struggle to triumph" seems to be the maximum which holds sway with the majority of people; that is, those who attain to a successful goal at all, must find it after arduous effort, and though it is undoubtedly true that many fall exhausted in the conflict, a few, like William D. Easley, by their inherent force of character and strong mentality, rise above their environment and all which seems to hinder them, until they reach the heights to which they originally aspired.

Mr. Easley, who is now living in honorable retirement in the city of Lincoln, was for many years one of the progressive merchants, lumber dealers and representative men of affairs in Richardson county, Nebraska. He is a scion of a sterling old Southern family and his birth occurred in Halifax county, Virginia, February 11, 1853. He is a son of Albert L. and Elizabeth (Ballou) Easley, both natives of Virginia also, the latter of whom, born in 1826, died in 1889. The father was born in Halifax county, in March, 1812, and there he grew to manhood, attended school and married, continuing to reside in the Old Dominion until in October, 1868, when he moved

to Nebraska with his family, settling on a farm near Rulo, in this county, being among the pioneers of that locality, and there he engaged successfully in general farming for many years. About 1884 he moved to Falls City, where his death occurred in 1888. He had spent his last years in retirement. He became well and favorably known in the eastern part of Richardson county and was influential among the early settlers there.

To Albert L. Easley and wife five children were born, namely: Mrs. Susan Carter, who resided in Kansas and is now deceased; William D., the subject of this review; Mrs. Alberta Jones, who lives in Boulder, Colorado; James, deceased, and Sally B., the wife of A. B. Wanner, a druggist of Falls City.

William D. Easley spent his early boyhood in Halifax county, Virginia, being fifteen years old when his parents brought him to Nebraska. He grew up on the farm in this county and, like all sons of pioneers, worked hard assisting his father develop the homestead near Rulo. He received his early education in the rural schools of his district and began his business career as a clerk in a general merchandise store at Rulo in 1869, when only sixteen years of age. He continued there until 1872, when he went to Colorado, where he clerked in a store six months, then went to Pawnee, Nebraska. In 1877 he engaged in the lumber business at Humboldt, Richardson county, and was there thus engaged until 1886, when he bought the lumber yard at Falls City, which he operated until 1904, when he went to Kansas City, Missouri, continuing the lumber business there until 1909. He has lived in most of the towns of Richardson county and is well known throughout southeastern Nebraska. While at Rulo he hauled lumber from that town to Salem, before the days of railroads in eastern Nebraska; a lumber yard having been established at Salem prior to the coming of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad.

Mr. Easley was very successful in the lumber business, every phase of which he soon mastered and he kept well abreast of the times in all that pertained to his chosen line, being not only a close observer but a wide reader of the lumber journals and periodicals published in the interests of lumber men. He is a man of sound judgment and foresight and of industrious habits. He is one of the best-known lumbermen in the state of Nebraska and also up and down the Missouri river for a great distance. He is living in Lincoln and is not actively engaged in business at this writing. He located in that city in 1909 and was successfully engaged in the lumber and coal business there until 1916.

On May 30, 1876, in Pawnee county, Nebraska, Mr. Easley was married



to Alice C. Wheeler, who was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. She is the fifth child born to Ephraim and Lucindia (Fellows) Wheeler, who came from Pennsylvania to Nebraska in 1866, taking up a homestead four miles southeast of Pawnee City, and who were among the early pioneers of Pawnee county. They developed a good farm there through hard work and perseverance and there they spent the rest of their lives, both dying many years ago at Table Rock. Mrs. Easley was reared on the home farm and attended the early-day schools. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Easley has been without issue.

Mr. Easley is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Falls City. Politically, he has never been very active in public affairs, further than to do his duty as a good citizen. He is a man of obliging and genial disposition and makes and retains friends without effort.

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#### WENZEL SKALAK.

The colony of Bohemians that settled in Richardson county has benefited alike themselves and us, for they have made good citizens in every respect, have helped develop this semi-wild section of our vast republic and established comfortable homes through their industry. One of this number who is deserving of special mention in this volume is Wenzel Skalak, a well-known business man of Humboldt. He was born at Sokolec, Bohemia, April 25, 1852, a son of Frank and Elizabeth (Pohanka) Skalak, also natives of Bohemia, where they grew and were married. The father came to Richardson county, Nebraska, in 1865 and settled four miles south of Humboldt, built a log cabin and broke up the virgin prairie sod with a team of oxen. He worked hard to get a start in the new country and as the years passed became well-established and the possessor of a good farm. His nearest markets were Brownville and Arago. He bought his bacon and flour at Nebraska City. He sold hogs as low as two and one-half cents per pound and corn for ten and fifteen cents per bushel. He paid fourteen dollars and fifty cents an acre for his homestead rights. When he came here he had three hundred dollars which he loaned to a stranger who was in trouble, owing a debt of three hundred dollars. The man then helped him locate a good homestead. Mr. Skalak lived with his family in an old saw-mill a while when he first came. During the grasshopper years, he had hard sailing. He set out a large cabbage patch and he covered some the plants with old hats

through which the insects ate their way and destroyed the cabbage. He had ten acres of wheat which he cut with a cradle and bound into sheaves by hand, threshing it by horsepower. He followed this method for several years, or until the latter sixties. He lived in a log cabin fifteen years. He spent the rest of his life on his homestead, as did also his wife. To these parents three children were born, namely: Wenzel, subject of this sketch; Mrs. Rosalia Prachejl, a widow living at Fairbury, Nebraska, and Frank, a farmer in Humboldt precinct, Richardson county.

Wenzel Skalak spent his childhood in Bohemia, being thirteen years old when his parents brought him to Richardson county, Nebraska. He attended the common schools, and helped his father develop the home place, working hard, as did all sons of pioneers. He also worked out as a farm hand at a salary of forty dollars a year until 1867, when he began clerking in a general store, owned by Ruel Nims, who had the first and only store in Humboldt for some time. In 1880, Mr. Skalak began working for William Stearns, and several years later started a mercantile business for himself in partnership with E. A. Loper, handling clothing, boots and shoes. Later, he was in partnership with G. A. Walch. Selling out the clothing business, he formed a partnership with H. H. Scott, with whom he conducted a hardware store for seventeen years at Humboldt. In 1904 he opened up his present store in partnership with C. W. Atwood, which they conducted together until 1907, when Mr. Skalak began his present hardware store and implement business. He carries a large and well-selected stock of hardware and implements, all kinds of farming machinery, also plumbing and heating apparatus. He has built up a large and lucrative business, his trade extending all over the western part of the county. He is also a stockholder in the Humboldt brick yard, the creamery company and the local telephone company. He is also owner of three hundred and twenty acres of good land in Butler county, Kansas, in the oil fields, and of one hundred and eight-five acres at Crab Orchard, Nebraska.

Mr. Skalak was married to Frances Radek, who was born on June 25, 1857, in Kuklik, Bohemia, and there she spent her girlhood, emigrating to America, with a friend, in 1875, she came to Humboldt, Nebraska, where she worked as a domestic for some time. To Mr. and Mrs. Skalak five children have been born, namely: William, who is working with his father in the store; Ludvik, in partnership in business with his father; Evan, a farmer near Dubois, Nebraska, and two children who died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Skalak is a Democrat. He has served as a member of the city council of Humboldt. He has been one of the principal promoters



of the local telephone company, being for some time chairman of the board of directors, and he is now vice-president of the company. He is also vice-president of the company that operates the brick plant at Humboldt, and is a director of the same. Fraternally, he is a member of the local lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Modern Woodmen of America, C. S. B. S., and the Bohemian lodge. He was reared in the Lutheran faith.

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### JAMES W. BURNS.

The Old Dominion has sent many of her industrious citizens into Nebraska to help reclaim the great plains and among these is James W. Burns, farmer and stockman of Liberty precinct, Richardson county. He was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, September 5, 1853, and is a son of Thomas H. and Lucy (Crockett) Burns. The father was born in Virginia about the year 1806 and his death occurred in 1869. He grew up in his native state, in fact, lived and died there. He was overseer in an iron foundry for many years. All the children born of his union with Lucy Crockett are deceased but James W. Burns, the subject of this sketch. After the death of his first wife he married Ellen Obenchain, to which union two children were born, one of whom is living—Dillie, wife of William Kempér, who makes her home in Botetourt county, Virginia. Thomas H. Burns's first wife, Lucy Crockett, was born in Virginia, where she was reared and spent her life, dying in 1859. She and her husband were both members of the Baptist church.

James W. Burns grew to manhood in Virginia and received a common-school education. He assisted his father with the work on the home farm during his boyhood and young manhood. In 1870 he went to Lafayette county, Missouri, where he worked out by the month as a farm hand. In 1878 he came to Nebraska and rented land in Arago township, Richardson county. In 1884 he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in western Kansas. Selling out there in 1889, he moved to Verdon, this county, and in 1892 bought his present farm in Liberty precinct, which was unimproved. He set out trees, built fences, a house and barn and in due course of time had the land under excellent cultivation. The place consists of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 20. In connection with general farming he has always kept graded Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs.

Mr. Burns was married on December 18, 1881, to Nellie L. Bennett, a

daughter of George W. and Sarah L. (Everet) Bennett, early settlers of Ohio, from which state they later moved to Wisconsin in the early days there, and finally came to Richardson county, Nebraska, from Minnesota, Mrs. Burns being born in the last-named state, on December 29, 1863. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Burns: William A., who lives in Salem precinct; Charles E., who lives in Porter precinct; Ira C., who lives in Liberty precinct; Clara L., wife of W. Schultz, of Liberty precinct; Harry T., who lives in Porter precinct; Emily K., who was graduated from the Verdon high school and is teaching in the district schools; Amos Schley, who enlisted for service in the United States army on July 4, 1917, a member of Company D, Fifth Nebraska Infantry; Nellie A. and Anther C., the two latter of whom are at home; Ella E. is deceased, and one died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Burns is a Democrat. He has served as road overseer in his community, and was a member of the school board in his district for a period of twenty-one years. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Woodmen of the World. His wife belongs to the Knights and Ladies of Security. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They have worked hard and finally achieved marked success in agriculture.

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#### RICHARD A. COUPE.

The old Empire state has contributed many of her most enterprising sons to the great West and they have played a very important role in the development of the same. One of this number in Richardson county, Nebraska, who is deserving of special mention is Richard A. Coupe, one of the leading farmers and cattlemen of Falls City precinct. He was born in Utica, New York, June 9, 1855, a son of James and Jane (Latus) Coupe. The father was born in Lancashire, England, in 1812 and there he spent his earlier years, emigrating to the state of New York in 1844, where he died in 1861, after devoting his active life to general farming. The mother was also born in Lancashire, England, in 1814, there she grew to womanhood and came to America about 1844, locating at Utica, New York, where she and James Coupe were married. Her death occurred in 1867. Twelve children were born to them, seven of whom are living at this time, namely: Ellen J., who married John O'Brien, deceased; Mary L., the widow of John Roscoe, living in Utica, New York; Elizabeth, deceased; Henry F., who lives in Utica, New York; Thomas A., a dry goods merchant at Utica,



New York; James F., a lawyer in Utica, that state; Joseph B., deceased, whose family lives in Effingham, Kansas, but at one time lived in Richardson county, Nebraska, where he filled the office of county judge for three terms; Margaret A., deceased; Richard A., of this sketch; Sarah, who lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, and is a sister of charity, one of the volunteers at the hospital for lepers, known as Sister Cyril; two children, who died in infancy.

Richard A. Coupe grew to manhood in Utica, New York, where he received a common school education. He came West in 1878, locating at Rulo, Richardson county, Nebraska, and, in the following year, took up his residence in Falls City precinct, where he soon engaged in stock raising. He rented land about two years, and in 1882, bought one hundred and sixty acres near Wymore, Nebraska, which land he improved and sold in 1887, then moved to McCook, this state, where he conducted a meat market until 1892. In that year he returned to Richardson county and bought two hundred acres in Falls City precinct, his present farm, and here he has since been successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. He has made many important improvements, remodeling the dwelling throughout, and from his home may be obtained one of the finest views in the locality, Falls City being within the range of vision. He has appropriately named his place "Pleasant View." He has prospered by good management and persistent industry, and has added to his original farm until he now owns two hundred and forty acres in section 27, Falls City precinct. He also owns five hundred and forty acres of good land in Anderson county, Kansas. He is a breeder of Poll Durham cattle and Poland China hogs, being in partnership with his sons, under the firm name of R. A. Coupe & Sons. They began breeding thoroughbred cattle and hogs in 1914. Mr. Coupe has been a very extensive and successful cattle feeder, feeding from five hundred to one thousand head annually, which he ships to the Kansas City market. In 1885 he engaged in the butcher business at Falls City, continuing the same several years.

Mr. Coupe was married on November 24, 1885, to Mary M. King, who was born on December 14, 1863, in Canada. She is a daughter of John and Catherine (Simmer) King, natives of Canada, from which country they came to Richardson county, Nebraska, in 1867, settling eight miles north of Falls City, where they developed a good farm from the virgin prairie and there spent the rest of their lives. Mrs. Coupe was a child when her parents brought her to this county, and here she grew to womanhood and attended school. To Mr. and Mrs. Coupe ten children have been born.







Lewis C Edwards

as follow: James F., a field man for the *Twentieth Century Farm Journal*, published at Omaha, Nebraska; Nellie, the wife of Thomas Kanaly, living in Jefferson precinct, Richardson county; Henry A., is a live stock commission merchant in Kansas City; Thomas, George L., John B., Catherine, Elizabeth, Mary and Richard, all at home.

Politically, Mr. Coupe is a Democrat. He was elected county supervisor in 1908, which office he held two terms in a highly acceptable manner. Fraternally, he belongs to the Knights of Columbus and the Royal Arcanum. He is a member of the Catholic church.

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### LEWIS CLIFFORD EDWARDS.

The early environment, education and training of Lewis Clifford Edwards, author of this history of Richardson county, have peculiarly fitted him for the task of writing and compiling a history of his own county, for he is a true lover of history trained in the newspaper field, a student of archaeology, a delver into the wonders of the past and a seeker after knowledge of what has happened in the years gone by. Mr. Edwards was born in a typical Nebraska pioneer cabin and was reared amid pioneer surroundings during his earlier years. He is self-made and self-educated and has worked his way into a position of confidence and esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens of Richardson county. He is modest, withal, and in writing this history, his sole aim has been to present such a work to the people of his county as will endure for all time to come as an authentic and reliable record of the important happenings in this county, since the advent of the first pioneer to the present time. The writer is certain that he has succeeded, and the work, with its contents, speaks for itself.

Lewis Clifford Edwards was born, September 28, 1878, on a farm located one and a half miles south of Glen Rock, Nemaha county, Nebraska, in a typical frontier cabin built of stone and hewn logs. He is a son of Andrew Jay and Elvira Belle (Houchins nee Mullins) Edwards, natives of Ohio and Indiana, respectively. Andrew Jay Edwards was born at New Lisbon, Columbiana county, Ohio, September 9, 1835, and was left an orphan by the death of his father in 1840 and that of his mother in 1845. The parents of Andrew J. Edwards were of Welsh descent.

Andrew J. Edwards was reared by an uncle, James Ammons, who took the orphan boy to South Bend, Indiana, and gave him a home with his



family. Here he was reared to young manhood and responded to his country's call for men, during the first year of the Civil War, enlisted and was enrolled as a member of Company B, Forty-eighth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry on December 15, 1861. He was given the post of first sergeant of his company and, later during his service, was transferred to the Union Veteran's Reserve Corps and was stationed at Washington, being one of seventeen men who were taken from Jefferson barracks, St. Louis, and placed on duty at Washington, D. C., to perform clerical work on account of sick disability. Thus Mr. Edwards was employed as a scribe in the War Department until he was mustered out of service in August, 1865. The Forty-eighth Indiana Regiment, which was organized at Goshen, Indiana, in 1861, fought at Ft. Donelson, February, 1862, and was at the siege of Corinth, Mississippi, in May, 1862. It then joined in the pursuit of General Price and fought at the battle of Iuka, September, 1862, where one hundred and sixteen of its number were killed out of four hundred and twenty engaged. In October of that year, it took part in the second battle of Corinth, under General Rosecrans, and later joined Grant's army, with which it pushed to the rear of Vicksburg and took part in the skirmish of Forty Hills, May 3, 1863. Later in that month, it participated in the battle of Raymond, Mississippi, on the 13th, and at Champion Hills on the 14th, where it lost thirty-three killed and wounded. On May 22, 1863, it took part in the assault on Tunnel Hill and the Vicksburg forts. The regiment re-enlisted as a veteran organization in January, 1864, at Huntsville, Alabama, and later they were on duty at Cartersville, Georgia, until they joined Sherman's army on its march from Atlanta to the sea. Following the capture of Savannah, they took part in the campaign through the Carolinas to Raleigh, thence to Petersburg, Virginia, and on to Washington, from which city they were transferred to Louisville, Kentucky, and mustered out on July 15, 1865. Andrew J. Edwards was transferred to the Veteran's Reserve Corps on September 22, 1863, and re-enlisted on June 23, 1863, for three years additional service. While a member of the Veteran's Reserve Corps, he served with various companies and detachments and received a furlough in January, 1865.

During the last year of the war, he came to Nebraska and located at Omaha, where he was employed as driver on various stage lines for some years. He was then employed in the construction of the Union Pacific railroad and was stationed at Ft. Laramie, Wyoming, for some time. Upon his return to Nebraska, he was again employed on mail and stage lines running out of Omaha and served as driver on the east side of the Missouri

river. He made his residence in Otoe county for some years and, after farming in Nemaha county, Nebraska, for some years, he located at Humboldt, Richardson county, in 1885. He died at Humboldt on November 15, 1906. Mr. Edwards was a member of the Presbyterian church.

Andrew J. Edwards was married, firstly, at Three Rivers, Michigan, to a Miss Kauffman, who died leaving him one child, Mrs. Cora Edwards-Tyler, of Sterling, Nebraska. His second marriage occurred in Atchison county, Missouri, in 1875, with Mrs. Alvira Belle Houchins nee Mullins, who was born on April 19, 1849, in Crawford county, Indiana, a daughter of Lewis Clasby and Elizabeth (Hume) Mullins, natives of Lexington, Campbell county, Kentucky. Lewis C. Mullins was born, September 26, 1815, and was a son of Lindsey and Millie (Sutherd) Mullins, natives of Virginia, and members of old American families. The Mullins family came to Nebraska and made a settlement here in 1860. Mrs. Elizabeth (Hume) Mullins was a daughter of John Gray Hume. The Mullins family is of Scotch descent. To this second marriage of Andrew J. Edwards were born children as follow: Gila J., of Humboldt, Nebraska; Lewis Clifford, subject of this review; Warren C., of Dawson, Nebraska; Calvert T., a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska; Marcia, wife of Hark Bradley of Dawson, Nebraska, and Jesse Lee, who died in Nemaha county, Nebraska.

Lewis C. Edwards received his education in the public schools of Glen Rock and Humboldt, Nebraska. He served an apprenticeship in a photograph gallery at Humboldt for a time, and then entered the office of the *Humboldt Standard* in 1890. Here he learned the trade of printer and was next employed in the office of the *Humboldt Enterprise*, under E. F. Sharts. He was also with the *Humboldt Leader* under H. P. Marble for some time. His ambition had been to become the proprietor of a newspaper and he realized his ambition by purchasing the *Humboldt Standard* in 1901. He operated this newspaper for a period of five years, later being associated with Oliver Hall, under the firm name of Edwards & Hall. In November, 1905 Mr. Edwards was elected register of deeds for Richardson county and assumed office on January 1, 1906. At the expiration of his term of four years, he was re-elected and served for five years, making nine years in all in this important office. In November, 1916, he was a candidate on the Democratic ticket for state senator and carried his home county by a large majority, his name being written on the ballots by his friends, although Mr. Edwards made no active canvass for the office. In January, 1917, he was appointed deputy clerk of the district court under Charles Loree and is now filling this position.



Mr. Edwards was married at Nebraska City on September 28, 1909, to Jessie Paxton, who was born at Chambers, Nebraska, a daughter of Dr. Galen C. and Laura B. (Cain) Paxton, of Falls City, the latter of whom is a daughter of William R. Cain and wife, pioneer settlers of Richardson county. Dr. Galen C. Paxton is a son of William L. Paxton, also a pioneer of Richardson county. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, a daughter, Betty Isabelle, born, March 1, 1911.

Mr. Edwards is a Democrat in his political affiliation and is one of the recognized leaders of his party in Richardson county. He and Mrs. Edwards are members of St. Thomas Episcopal church of Falls City. He is fraternally affiliated with Nemaha Valley Lodge No. 34, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Falls City Lodge No. 9, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Eureka Chapter No. 5, Royal Arch Masons, and the Royal Highlanders. Mr. Edwards has pronounced literary talent and is a lover of history, he with others having made some valuable researches along the banks of the Missouri river, in this county, and have unearthed various parts of skeletal remains, beads, and the like, which have been pronounced by high authorities to be remains of a prehistoric race which once lived in this section.

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### JOHN HENRY HUTCHINGS.

John Henry Hutchings, well-known business man and farmer, of Falls City, is a native son of Richardson county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a farm, east of Falls City, January 12, 1872, a son of George and Eliza (Sleight) Hutchings, natives of England, the former born in 1831 and the latter in 1836, who came to the then territory of Nebraska from Illinois in 1864 and settled on the farm in section 1, Falls City township. George Hutchings developed a good farm there and became a well-to-do and influential pioneer of Richardson county. He was endowed with an intellectual nature, and, in this pioneer society, his greatest interest was in its moral and intellectual development. He died in 1890 and his widow survived him more than ten years, her death occurring in 1901. They were the parents of seven children who grew to maturity, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth, the others being: Elizabeth, who married F. W. Thompson and died in western Kansas in 1906; Kate, who married W. P. Jones and is now living in Nuckolls county, Nebraska; George F., of Kansas City; Mary, who is the librarian of

the city library at Falls City; Anne, who makes her home with her sister, Mary, and William S., of Wallace, Idaho.

Reared on the home farm east of Falls City, John H. Hutchings completed his schooling in the Falls City high school and remained on the farm until his removal to Falls City in 1905. In the meantime, during the years 1903-04, he had served as a member of the board of county supervisors from his district, and in 1905, having been elected county clerk, moved to Falls City to take charge of that office and for the better prosecution of the business interests he had developed. In 1907 he was reelected to the office of county clerk, serving two terms, at the end of which term of service he was elected county treasurer and served in that capacity for five years, 1910-15. Since that time he has been devoting his attention to the varied business interests he has developed in and about Falls City, with residence at 2213 Stone street. Mr. Hutchings is the owner of a fine farm of about four hundred acres, two and a half miles east of Falls City, and of farms in Kansas and Oklahoma. He also has oil lands which have been successfully producing for the past three years, and he is one of the Falls City business men who are taking steps to ascertain if there be oil deposits in this county. With this aim they have spent considerable time and money in securing oil and gas leases on several thousand acres of land in the western part of the county. The reluctance of farmers to lease their land has delayed the test, but the company expects to begin drilling in the fall of 1917.

In 1909, Mr. Hutchings, in connection with others, laid off the Boulevard addition to the city of Falls City, and later laid off the Hutchings and Maust addition, a tract of forty acres, situated two blocks west of Stone street, and there built a number of houses, graded the streets and otherwise improved the addition. Mr. Hutchings is a Democrat and has for years been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in this part of the state. He is, at present, serving as a member of the city council and, in addition to his further public service set out above, has in other ways contributed of his time and his energies to the advancement of the common welfare.

On June 29, 1909, John H. Hutchings was united in marriage to Mary Emily Davies, who was born in Pennsylvania, December 23, 1882, a daughter of Rev. Enoch Israel and Maud (Kirby) Davies. Reverend Davies was born in Wales in 1853 and entered the ministry of the Presbyterian church. He died in 1903, while pastor of the Presbyterian church at Tecumseh, this state. Maud (Kirby) Davies was born in Pennsylvania in 1849. She is a descendant of Revolutionary families, among them the Potter



and Strickland families, and through the latter the descent is traced from the Plantagenets, of England. Mrs. Hutchings graduated from the state university at Lincoln, taking an A. M. degree in 1904, and was for some time, prior to her marriage, engaged in teaching in the high schools of Falls City, Nebraska, and Passaic, New Jersey.

Mr. and Mrs. Hutchings have two children, John Henry, Jr., born, June 23, 1912, and Sarah Eliza, born, January 13, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchings are members of the St. Thomas Episcopal church of Falls City and take a very active interest in church work, Mr. Hutchings having been a member of the vestry of this parish since attaining his majority. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hutchings are actively interested in the general good works and social and cultural activities of their home city. Mr. Hutchings is a Knight Templar and a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Royal Highlanders. As a progressive business man, he has done much to advance the general business interests of his home town and has long been regarded as one of the "real live wires" of the city.

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#### CYRUS NORTON ALLISON, D. D. S.

One of the best-known and most successful of the younger dentists of Richardson county is Dr. Cyrus Norton Allison, of Falls City, who was born, September 11, 1879, on a farm near Florence, Kansas, a son of Alson N. and Elizabeth (Brandon) Allison. The father was born at Marietta, Ohio, in 1839, and died in 1912. He was a son of Hugh Allison, a scion of an old American family. Elizabeth Brandon was born about 1853 and died in 1890. Alson N. Allison devoted his life to farming, but when he came west about 1860, was for some time engaged in freighting from Omaha, Nebraska, to Fort Laramie, Wyoming. He had a dangerous job for much of this long route was through a hostile Indian country, which was also infested with highwaymen; hence, as a rule, only men of courage undertook such work. Mr. Allison also engaged in freighting to Denver, Colorado, and to the states of Montana and New Mexico. He owned his own mules and complete outfit, which he used in this work, and, after spending several years at it, followed gold mining until about 1870. He took up a homestead near the present site of the city of Bozeman, Montana, lived on it two years and then moved to Kansas, where he took up a home-

stead, a mile and a half southwest of Florence, in Marion county. There he developed a fine stock and fruit farm and spent the rest of his life. He was serving as township trustee at the time of the grasshopper plague and had charge of the relief work there.

The following children were born to Alson N. Allison and wife: Louisa Belle, the wife of J. M. Kilburn, who lives on a farm adjoining the old home place near Florence, Kansas; Ida May, a stenographer and bookkeeper for the Illinois Thresher Company, at Sycamore, Illinois; Thomas Walter, farming on the home place in Marion county, Kansas; Myrtle Lusanna, deceased; Dr. Cyrus N., of this sketch; Mrs. Cora Elizabeth Orr, living in Loveland, Colorado, and Luther Devin, who is engaged in the grocery business at Greeley, Colorado.

Doctor Allison, of this review, was reared on the home farm where he worked when a boy. He received his early education in the public and high schools at Florence, Kansas, and then spent three and one-half years in the Kansas Agricultural College, at Manhattan, from which institution he was graduated in 1901 with the degree of Bachelor of Science. Deciding that he preferred a professional career, he gave up the idea of scientific farming and entered Central Dental College at Indianapolis, Indiana, where he spent his first year, and then studied during his second and third year at the Western Dental College, Kansas City, Missouri. During the years 1903 and 1904, he practiced his profession in Oklahoma, under state license. He completed his course in 1905 in the last named college, receiving the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. Soon thereafter he located in Falls City, Nebraska, where he has since engaged in practice, building up a large clientele of the best people in this locality. He has a modernly equipped office in the Richardson County Bank Building. His work is first-class in every respect and he keeps well up to date in his profession.

Doctor Allison was married in August, 1903, to Leonora D. Eggen, of Manhattan, Kansas, who took the course in domestic science in the Agricultural College of Kansas. She is a daughter of James Collier Eggen, a well-known citizen of Manhattan. To the Doctor and wife one child has been born—Loren, whose birth occurred July 12, 1909.

Politically, Doctor Allison is an independent voter. He belongs to the Presbyterian church and is active in church affairs, especially Sunday school work. He was for three years secretary of the Richardson County Sunday School Association and he has been superintendent of the Falls City Sunday schools for the past nine years. His work has been very effective in this



connection and we reproduce the following tribute to him which appeared in *The Nebraska Sunday School Record*, in its issue of January, 1915:

Dr. C. N. Allison, secretary-treasurer of the Richardson County Sunday School Association, is a product of Nebraska's neighbor, the Sunflower state. It is none to his discredit to know that he was reared under environments which brought him to his majority before witnessing the presence of the open saloon. The force of character manifested in his life today proves the value and influence of early training and proper moral surroundings.

Doctor Allison spent much of his early manhood in high school and college work at Manhattan, Kansas, before entering upon his professional career, which, in a measure, explains his efficient service in the field to which Richardson county has called him. Busy as has been his professional life as a dentist, he has for a number of years given much time and energy in Sunday school and church work as Sunday school superintendent, and as a member of Falls City Presbyterian Church Session.

He is now entering upon his second year of service as secretary-treasurer, unanimously rechosen because of his careful, painstaking methods of work.

Any county may well consider itself fortunate in finding one so well-fitted as Doctor Allison for this important position. By nature modest, by training efficient, he, in his quiet, unassuming way, renders much valuable service with no thought of placing himself in the limelight of public praise. May we have many more like him.

Dr. Allison is an elder in the Presbyterian church. Fraternally, he belongs to the Royal Highlanders.

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### HON. PHILO S. HEACOCK.

In the memorial annals of Richardson county there are few names held in better remembrance than that of the late Hon. Philo S. Heacock, of Falls City, former representative from this district in the Nebraska General Assembly, former mayor of Falls City and for many years actively engaged in the grain, coal, live-stock and milling business in that city, where his death occurred on December 19, 1916, he then being seventy-three years, five months and thirteen days of age. His widow is still living in that city.

Philo S. Heacock was a native of the Dominion of Canada, born at Delta, in the province of Ontario, July 6, 1843, but had been a resident of Nebraska ever since he was twenty-five years of age. When quite a young man, he left Canada and went to Illinois, where he remained until 1869, in which year he came to Nebraska, driving across the prairies of Iowa by prairie schooner and crossing the Missouri river at Nebraska City, which was then a thriving river town. He proceeded thence to Johnson county, where he located on a farm and where he remained about seven years, at the end of which time, in 1876, he moved down to Falls City, where he built a grain elevator and where he ever afterward was successfully engaged in the grain, live-stock and coal business, to which, in later years, he added

the business of milling. From the very beginning of his business career in Falls City, he was ever regarded as one of the leading business men of Richardson county, as well as one of the most active and influential factors in the development of the county's interests along all proper lines. It was not long after Mr. Heacock became engaged in the grain and live-stock business at Falls City that he began expanding that business, and from that time to the day of his death was recognized as one of the heaviest shippers from Falls City over the Burlington. At one time he owned and managed about twenty elevators on the Burlington line, but of later years had cut down the number of his elevators and had been giving more attention to the manufacture of flour, having bought the Douglas mill after his elevator at Falls City was destroyed by fire some years ago. In 1880 Mr. Heacock was elected to represent this district in the Legislature and he served during the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of that body. He also served as mayor of Falls City for one term and in other ways gave of himself unselfishly to the public service, ever helpful in promoting any movement designed to advance the common welfare. He was an earnest member of the Presbyterian church and, at the time of his death, was an elder in the same, an office to which he had been ordained in 1905. He had a brother, Albert Heacock, formerly a resident of Falls City, now living at Alberta, Canada; two sisters, Mrs. Ida Fredenbaugh and Mrs. E. A. Barnes, of Toronto, Canada; another sister, Mrs. David Beatty, of Pony Sound, Ontario, and a fourth sister, Mrs. Emma Stevens, of Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Heacock was twice married; the first time, in Canada, to Isabella Beatty, who died leaving two children, Jessie, who died in Canada in 1884, and Philo, who died in Falls City in 1892. In 1882, at Falls City, Mr. Heacock married secondly, Florence Thorne, of that city, who was born at Ottawa, Illinois, and to that union four children were born, namely: Bess, wife of V. R. Gould, of Omaha, Kate, Roy A. and Ruth, who are still at home with their mother in Falls City. The Heacocks have a very pleasant home and have ever given proper attention to the general social activities of their home town, helpful in promoting all local good works and in advancing such movements as are designed to promote the common welfare.

Roy A. Heacock, who is now managing the extensive interests and properties left by his father and operating the mill and the coal business in behalf of the family, was born at Falls City on March 10, 1886. He



completed his schooling at the University of Nebraska in 1905 and then became actively connected as a partner with his father in the business the latter had built up at Falls City. For the last six years of the elder Heacock's life, he had been a practical invalid and thus much of the weight of the management of the business fell upon the shoulders of the younger Heacock, who thus became practical manager of the mill and the other interests of his father. Since the latter's death, the son has continued to conduct affairs as before and is continually extending the operations of the mill. Mr. Heacock is one of the most energetic and public-spirited business men in Falls City and takes an active part in the general affairs of that city. He is a Mason and a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and takes a warm interest in the affairs of both of these orders.

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### JAMES KELLY.

James Kelly, a farmer and stockman of Liberty precinct, Richardson county, and the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres of choice land in section 18, was born on November 1, 1870, in Manitowac, Wisconsin, the son of Martin and Nora (O'Neil) Kelly, well-known farming people.

Martin Kelly was born in Ireland in 1829. At the age of twenty years he left his native land, in 1849, the year of the memorable famine in Ireland, and came to the United States, there being a general exodus from the Emerald Isle about that time. On arriving in this country he went on to Wisconsin and settled on a farm, which he later purchased, and continued to live there until 1879, when he came to Richardson county, continuing his farming operations until the time of his death in 1902. He was married to Nora O'Neil, also a native of Ireland, who was born in 1834 and who died in 1898. They were married in Wisconsin and were the parents of the following children: James, the subject of this sketch; Martin, who lives in Liberty precinct; Ellen, the wife of J. Tangney, and lives in Kansas; Katherine, who married William Riley, of Grant precinct; Bridget, who lives with her brother, John; Nora, living with her brother, Miles; Mrs. Lizzie Cully, who lives near Lincoln, Seward county, this state; John and Miles, farmers, of Ohio precinct.

On coming to Richardson county in 1879, Martin Kelly bought a farm in Ohio precinct and as he prospered in his farming operations, developed and improved his land and became one of the substantial farmers of his

neighborhood. He and his wife were homely people and were earnest members of the Catholic church, in the faith of which their children were also reared. Their deaths, separated by a few years, were generally regretted throughout the community.

James Kelly, son of the worthy couple whose lives have just been noticed, was nine years old when he came with his parents to Richardson county and was educated in district school No. 77. On leaving school he helped his father in the work of the farm. In 1906 he bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he is operating successfully. In addition to his work on the farm, he is also engaged in handling Duroc-Jersey hogs and well-bred Shorthorn cattle, and has been equally successful in these lines. In 1916 Mr. Kelly built a substantial modern house, equipped with all modern conveniences and is lighted throughout with gas.

On October 10, 1911, James Kelly was united in marriage to Elizabeth Joyce, daughter of John and Mary (Cleary) Joyce, natives of Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly are the parents of two children, daughters, Eleanor, born on February 21, 1914, and Elizabeth Mary, July 25, 1917.

Mr. Kelly is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local affairs, but has never been a seeker after office. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church and are interested in all neighborhood good works. Mr. Kelly is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

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### CHARNOCK W. WILLIAMSON.

One of the leading farmers of Nemaha precinct, Richardson county, is Charnock W. Williamson, who was born near Lawrence, Kansas, October 7, 1859. He is a son of Robert and Maria (Cade) Williamson. The father was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, May 5, 1830, and died in 1912. He left Ohio about 1858, going to Iowa, later moving to Missouri. In 1860 he went to Kansas, but moved back to Missouri, but in 1861 went to Kansas again. In June, 1865, he bought the farm on which the subject of this sketch resides in Nemaha township and moved here at that time. He built a small house and began improving the place in a general way. He carried on general farming and fed large numbers of cattle, having plenty of range on the prairies at that time. He became one of the most successful farmers of the county, owning at the time of his death seven hundred acres, which he divided among his children. He was well known and held in high esteem.



He was a son of Henry Williamson and wife, the latter of whom was a Haxton, natives of Ohio, where they lived and died. The mother of the subject of this sketch was born in Maryland, July 2, 1828, and her death occurred in 1910. She was a member of the Presbyterian church. Robert Williamson was a pioneer in three states. He bought his first land in Nebraska from the government, paying one dollar and twenty-seven cents an acre for the same. It was part of an Indian reservation. He paid for his farm by hauling lime about forty miles from White river. He used ox-teams to break up his land. He endured many hardships, including the grasshopper years, but he was a man of courage and by perseverance won out. His wife made all the clothes for the family for several years, spinning the cloth herself. To these parents five children were born, namely: Mrs. Martha Runyon, who lives in Nemaha precinct, this county; Samuel, who lives in Durant, Oklahoma; Lucinda, the wife of C. L. Lynch, of Sabetha, Kansas; Charnock W., the subject of this sketch, and Robert E., who lives on a farm in Nemaha precinct.

Charnock W. Williamson grew to manhood on the home farm, where he worked hard when a boy, assisting his father develop the place and cultivate the general crops. In the winter time he attended the local schools in district No. 71. When a young man he herded cattle on the plains a great deal. In 1884 he began farming for himself on eighty acres which his father gave him and also on rented land. He later purchased a part of the estate. He is now owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent land in section 36, Nemaha precinct. He has made all the improvements on the same, and now has a comfortable home and a good group of outbuildings. He set out a large orchard some years ago, which was destroyed by a storm, but he planted another and now has an excellent orchard on his north eighty. He is a breeder of Shorthorn cattle. He raises a large quantity of grain each year, much of which he feeds to live stock.

Mr. Williamson was married on October 30, 1884, to Maggie Smith, who was born in Richardson county, where she grew to womanhood and was educated in school district No. 71. She is a daughter of Julius and Rosalee Smith, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this volume. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Williamson, named as follow: Floyd, who is farming in Nemaha county, Kansas; Robert, who is farming in Salem precinct, this county; Dottie, deceased; Elva, deceased, and Loring is at home. Politically, Mr. Williamson is a Democrat. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Modern Woodmen.

## FREDERICK H. HARKENDORFF.

Frederick H. Harkendorff, proprietor of a well-kept farm in section 29, Ohio precinct, and one of the best-known and most progressive young farmers and stockmen in that part of the county, is a member of one of the very first families in Richardson county, his grandfather, John F. Harkendorff, having come here in 1854 and settled on a pre-emption claim on the Muddy river at a time when there were but three other white men within the confines of what is now Richardson county. Two of these earlier comers were horse thieves whose careers not long afterward were cut short at the end of ropes, the not-uncommon fate of their ilk in those days.

John F. Harkendorff, the pioneer, and his wife, Mary (Kephandt) Harkendorff, were natives of Germany, who left their home in Mecklenburg-Schwerin with their family in 1852 and, after a nine-weeks voyage on a sailing vessel, reached the shores of America, and proceeded from port on out to Illinois, settling in Jackson county, that state. Two years later, they pushed on West into what then was the great territory of Nebraska, just created that year from what formerly had been somewhat indefinitely known as the Indian country, and settled on a tract of land he had pre-empted on the banks of the Muddy, about where the village of Straussville now stands in this country. As noted above, there were, at that time, but three other white men in the territory now included within Richardson county, two of these being horse thieves and the other a real settler. It was about this time that Jesse Crook, the Goolsbys and others of the early colony of Tennesseans settled here. John F. Harkendorff put up a log cabin on his claim and, with the oxen which had drawn his covered wagon, family and household goods over from Illinois started in to break the sod and develop his farm. He and his family were always on friendly terms with the Indians, who were then present in large numbers hereabout, and when he got a start with his herd of cattle the Indians bought his surplus cattle. The scrupulous fidelity with which the Indians observed their part in the transactions was proof to the pioneer that his red neighbors were inherently honest, for when they had no money with which to pay for the cattle they would leave with him ponies double in value the amount of their purchase as a pledge against the time of the government's periodical payment to the Indians. The Harkendorffs were an earnest, peaceable family and were not much bothered by the horse thieves, only one of their horses being stolen during those early days when horse stealing was all too com-



mon. On that pioneer farm and on their later farm in Ohio precinct, John F. Harkendorff and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, rearing their family and developing a fine piece of farm property, useful and influential pioneers and good neighbors. The old log cabin in which they began their residence in this county is still standing, one of the most precious relics of the pioneer days to be found within the whole confines of the county.

Fred J. Harkendorff, son of John F. Harkendorff and wife, was born on March 11, 1841, and was eleven years of age when he came to this country with his parents and about thirteen when they came from Illinois to the then Territory of Nebraska and settled in this county. His youth was spent on the pre-emption claim on the site of the present village of Straussville, and he then moved with the family to the farm in the precinct of Ohio on which the subject of this sketch now lives. There he grew to manhood and, after his marriage, established his home, remaining there until 1903 in which year he retired from the farm and moved to Falls City, where he spent his last days, his death occurring there on November 3, 1913, and where his widow is now living, past sixty years of age. She, Mary C. Hasenyager, was born on a farm ten miles from St. Louis, Missouri, daughter of John Hasenyager and wife, who became pioneers of Richardson county and substantial residents of Ohio precinct. Fred J. and Mary C. (Hasenyager) Harkendorff were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth, the others being as follow: John, a farmer, of Ohio precinct; Anna, deceased; Mary, wife of F. W. Wittrock, of the precinct of Ohio; Charles, of that same precinct; William, deceased, and Louisa, who died in infancy.

Frederick H. Harkendorff was born on the farm on which he is now living, in section 29 of the precinct of Ohio, July 11, 1889, and has lived there all his life. His early schooling was received in what is still known as the Harkendorff school in that precinct, and he supplemented the same by two years of attendance at the Falls City high school and attendance for two terms at the business college in that city. From the days of his boyhood, he had been a valued aid in the labors of developing and improving the home place. Several years before his father's death, he was given eighty acres of the home farm, including the home place, and has ever since farmed the same, establishing his home there after his marriage in the spring of 1912. In addition to his own farm, Mr. Harkendorff is farming adjoining land and is now successfully cultivating three hundred acres

of land. In addition to his general farming, he is giving considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing quite well.

On April 18, 1912, Frederick H. Harkendorff was united in marriage to Freida Lentzsch, who was born at Craig, Missouri, daughter of the Rev. C. H. and Elizabeth (Haartje) Lentzsch, natives, respectively of Germany and of Indiana, who were the parents of six children, of whom Mrs. Harkendorff was the fifth in order of birth. She was reared in Missouri and there received schooling both in the German schools and the English-speaking schools. Mr. and Mrs. Harkendorff have two children, Erwin and Alma. They are members of the German Lutheran church at Falls City and take a proper interest in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. Harkendorff gives a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but is "independent" in his political views.

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#### HON. CHARLES FRANK REAVIS.

Charles Frank Reavis, more familiarly known as Frank Reavis, son of Judge Isham and Annie M. Reavis, was born in Falls City on September 5, 1870, and has lived all of his life as a resident of the city of his birth.

Mr. Reavis is a graduate of the Falls City high school and attended the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, for one year. He studied law in the office of his father, the late Judge Isham Reavis, and was admitted to practice in March, 1892. Immediately upon his admission to the bar, he entered into the practice as the law partner of his father under the firm name of Reavis & Reavis, which partnership relation continued until the death of his father in the spring of 1914.

Mr. Reavis was married in June, 1895, to Myrta L. Abbey, daughter of W. W. and Azelia Abbey, widely known and universally beloved pioneers of Richardson county. Two children have been born of this marriage, Lieut. Charles Frank Reavis, Jr., and John Wallace Reavis.

Mr. Reavis is both a York Rite and a Scottish Rite Mason, and is fraternally connected with the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Woodmen of the World. He affiliates with the Methodist church.

He was elected county attorney of Richardson county in 1894 and was defeated for re-election in 1896. In 1914 he was elected to the Sixty-fourth Congress to represent the first congressional district of Nebraska and is now serving his second term to which he was elected in 1916.



## ERNEST WICKHAM.

Fruit growing is both pleasant and profitable to the man who loves nature and is willing to devote his closest attention to the work. One of the successful fruit growers and gardeners in Richardson county is Ernest Wickham, of Salem precinct. He was born, December 14, 1867, on his present farm, being a son of James and Eliza (Barrows) Wickham, pioneers of the county. The father was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, December 18, 1833, and his death occurred in 1905. He spent his earlier years in the Buckeye state, coming to Richardson county, Nebraska, in 1867, settling in Salem, where he engaged in the fruit business until his death. He was a soldier in the Civil War and took part in many important engagements and was with the army that marched under General Sherman from Atlanta to the sea. He and Eliza J. Barrows were married in 1860. She was born in Linn county, Iowa, in February, 1831, and is now making her home in St. Petersburg, Florida, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. To these parents seven children were born, named as follows: Mrs. Clara A. Bohrer, who lives in Florida, and whose husband is deceased; Blanche, the wife of C. A. Hassenyager, who lives in Bern, Kansas; James E. and Olive both living in St. Petersburg, Florida; Bertha, wife of Drew McCulley, living in Chicago, Illinois; Una, the wife of F. Fitch, of St. Petersburg, Florida; and Ernest, of this sketch, who was fourth in order of birth.

Ernest Wickham was reared on the farm and he received a common-school education, including one year in the Salem high school. After teaching one year, he went to Florida, where he worked as a telegraph operator for nine years, then returned to Salem, Nebraska, and took up the fruit business with his father. They shipped as many as one hundred and twenty-seven carloads of fruit in one year. He owns thirty acres of rich and well-improved fruit land, on which he has seven acres of strawberries and raspberries. In 1913 he began growing the "ever-bearing" brand of strawberries, which he has since made a specialty. He has made horticulture a special study for many years and is one of the best-informed and best-known men in his line in southeastern Nebraska. In 1904 he began in the printing business and he was editor of the *Salem Index* until the building burned in 1911, whereupon he discontinued that line of work, although he had been very successful in the same and made the *Index* one of the popular and influential newspapers in Richardson county.

Mr. Wickham was married in December, 1888, to Fannie B. Butler,

a daughter of N. F. and Fannie Butler, natives of Fruitland Park, Florida, but Mrs. Wickham was born in South Carolina. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wickham: Roland, who was graduated from the Salem public schools after which he spent three years in the normal school at Peru, Nebraska, and is a civil engineer, living at Atlanta, Georgia; Mary, who was graduated from the normal school at Peru and is now engaged in teaching at McCook, Nebraska; Faye, who is attending the normal school at Peru at this time (May, 1917); John, a student in the Salem high school, and Kenneth and Vernon, both at home. These children have been given excellent educational advantages and are making a splendid start in life.

Politically, Mr. Wickham is a Democrat, and is now assessor of his township and formerly was a member of the county board.

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### CHARLES F. PRIBBENO.

Charles F. Pribbeno, of Preston, one of Richardson county's most extensive landowners, the owner of nearly three thousand acres of land in this state and in the neighboring state of Kansas, is a native of Wisconsin, but has been a resident of this county since he was about four years of age and has therefore been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since pioneer days. He was born in the city of Madison, capital of the state of Wisconsin, June 27, 1859, son of Charles and Caroline (Thompson) Pribbeno, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Norway, who became residents of Richardson county in 1863 and here spent the remainder of their lives, useful and influential pioneers of the precinct of Arago and of the village of Preston, where they both died.

Charles Pribbeno was born in the city of Berlin on June 3, 1837, and was seventeen years of age when he came to this country and located in Madison, Wisconsin, where he presently engaged in the butcher business. There he married Caroline Thompson, who was born in the kingdom of Norway on June 17, 1831, and who was but a girl when she came to this country. It was in 1858 that Charles Pribbeno was married and after his marriage he remained in Wisconsin until 1860, when he went to Pike's Peak, Colorado, where he became a mine owner. In 1862 he came back East, driving through by ox-team, and decided to locate in the then Territory of Nebraska. He settled in Richardson county and for several sum-



mers following was engaged in freighting to Denver and other points West, at times going on to Salt Lake City. He would freight corn, corn-meal and cured pork across the plains with two or three big freight wagons, three yoke of oxen to each wagon, and sometimes would sell out in Denver, at other times going on to Salt Lake City to dispose of his stuff, returning with a load of furs and buffalo robes. During this period of his career the elder Pribbeno gained the apt soubriquet of "Pike's Peak Charley," which name persisted among his friends as long as he lived, and so accustomed did he become to the name that he seemed to prefer to be thus addressed than by his real name. In 1863 Charles Pribbeno moved with his family to the then Territory of Nebraska and settled in the precinct of Arago, this county, renting the farm now owned there by his son, Henry Pribbeno, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, on that farm getting a start as a farmer and stockman on which he gradually improved until he eventually became one of the leading farmers in that part of the county and the owner of eight hundred acres of land. There he and his wife lived until their children were grown and married, after which they retired from the active labors of the farm and turned the home place over to their son Henry, afterward taking a trip to Spokane, Washington, on a visit to their daughter, Mrs. Anna Ernst. Six months later they returned to this county and bought a house in the village of Preston, where they spent the remainder of their days, her death occurring on March 28, 1909, and his, March 4, 1917.

Reared on the home farm in Arago precinct, Charles F. Pribbeno received his schooling in the schools of district No. 27 and remained at home, a valued aid in the labors of developing and improving the home place, until he was twenty-two years of age, when he married and bought an "eighty" in section 27 of Arago precinct, the start of his present extensive land holdings. This place had on it a little twelve-by-fourteen house, plastered with yellow clay, the house having a seven-by-fourteen lean-to made of common boxing, the side wall of which was five feet high, which was used as a kitchen. While Mr. Pribbeno then could only buy eighty acres, his father paying part cash for him for the same, he assuming a mortgage at eight per cent interest for the balance, he was able to rent one hundred acres on the side, giving one-half the crop for rent the first year, and his start therefore was made more as a renter than as an owner. Years ago Mr. Pribbeno found himself in possession of a mortgage claim on the land of a discouraged homesteader in Chase county, this state, and took a couple of

carloads of cattle out there to "range" the same. While there he bought land in that county and has since enlarged his holdings there until he has a considerable ranch in that county, grazing three hundred head of stock on the same. Mr. Pribbeno never lived on that ranch over two months at any time, the place now being operated by his sons, who also have farmed six hundred acres each year for the last ten years. In addition to his land holdings in Chase county Mr. Pribbeno is the owner of four hundred acres in Labette county, Kansas, three hundred and twenty-seven acres in Coffee county, same state, and two hundred and ninety-seven acres in the precincts of Arago and Jefferson, this county, two thousand nine hundred and two acres in all, the greater part of which is well improved and profitably cultivated. In 1892 Mr. Pribbeno engaged in the mercantile business at Preston, but after six years and fifty days in the mercantile business traded his store for a bit of land in Coffee county, Kansas. After two years he bought the store building and a bankrupt stock of goods in for cash and resumed the mercantile business, continuing to operate the store for eighteen months, at the end of which time he traded the buildings and stock of goods for the Labette county (Kansas) farm and has since given his attention to his land interests. He has owned and built several houses in Preston and now owns a modern home in the southern part of the village, where he and his family are very comfortably situated. The home farm of two hundred and fifty acres adjacent to the village and the one hundred acres he is still renting on the side, receive Mr. Pribbeno's immediate attention, his two younger sons having charge of the same. Mr. Pribbeno is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office, though for ten years, consecutively, he served as a member of the drainage board in district No. 1.

On September 23, 1880, Charles F. Pribbeno was united in marriage to Mary E. Zoeller, who was born at Buffalo, New York, September 26, 1858, daughter of Charles and Ernestina (Closa) Zoeller, natives of Germany, who settled in Richardson county in 1864 and both of whom are now deceased, and to this union eleven children have been born, two of whom died in infancy, the others being as follow: Mrs. Laura Pflum, of Chase county, Nebraska; Edward G., who is on Mr. Pribbeno's ranch in Chase county; Ida, wife of William C. Margrave, president of the William A. Margrave Company, ranchers, and a biographical sketch of whom, together with a history of the late William A. Margrave and his extensive



land development undertakings, is presented elsewhere in this volume; Elmer C., of Chase county; Howard H., of Coffee county, Kansas; Anna L., at home; Mrs. Mary M. Frasier, of Chase county, and William H. and Charles W., at home. The Pribbenos are members of the Evangelical Association and take an interested part in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the Preston neighborhood, helpful in promoting all worthy causes thereabout.

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### STEPHEN BOYD MILES.

Stephen Boyd Miles, who though departed from this life this many years, left an impression upon the early pioneer history of Richardson county and Nebraska, which will long figure in the historical annals of the county and state. He was prominently identified with the early formation of the state and was a leader in that picturesque epoch of the old stage coach and overland mail route days. No man in his day was more actively identified with the industrial development of this section of Nebraska than Mr. Miles. He had the distinction of having established the first great stock ranch in the western part of the state of Nebraska, which ranch is being conducted at the present time by his son, Joseph H. Miles.

Stephen Boyd Miles was born on January 9, 1822, and was a son of Thomas and Sarah (Boyd) Miles, natives of York county, Pennsylvania, where Stephen Boyd Miles was born. Thomas Miles was a son of Joseph Miles, who came to the American colonies from Liverpool, England, in 1732, and became a well-established landowner in York county, Pennsylvania, where his family is still honorably and substantially represented. Joseph Miles was a soldier, who fought during the American Revolution.

When the development of the Great West began, Stephen B. Miles became interested in the possibilities presented by the opening up of what had previously been known as the great American desert, and secured from the United States government the contract for carrying the mails from Independence, Missouri, to Salt Lake City, Utah. He undertook this mail-route in the early fifties and remained with it for some years. The schedule time of the stages operated by Mr. Miles was thirty days each way. The distance between Independence and Salt Lake City was twelve hundred and fifty miles by stage road, and the drivers usually drove six horses or the same number of mules to the stage. The Indians were often rather trouble-

some, especially when first the Sioux and the Cheyennes were on the warpath. The late Joel T. Jones, of Humboldt, and his two brothers were in Mr. Miles employ for some years on this and other routes. For several years Mr. Miles was engaged in the mail contract business, his routes covering all sections of the Western country, including Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Texas.

In 1856, Mr. Miles secured a tract of several thousand acres of land in what is now the neighborhood of Dawson, this county, to be used as a suitable place for the recuperation of the large numbers of horses and mules required in the mail service. This tract, whereon he made his home, was the nucleus of the present great Miles ranch, one of the most complete agricultural plants to be found in the West and which was the first great ranch to be established west of the Missouri river. Mr. Miles made his home on the ranch to the time of his death.

At the close of the Civil War, Mr. Miles secured his Texas mail contract and retained the same for a period of four years, at the end of which time, in 1871, he retired from the mail carrying enterprise and engaged extensively in the cattle industry, bringing cattle in great herds from the Texas ranges and feeding them on his ranch in preparation for shipment to the Chicago markets. His son, Joseph H. Miles, was an able and competent assistant in this work, and made the long trips to and from Texas in charge of the herds of cattle brought from the Southland for fattening on the ranch. It was not long until the Miles ranch and its products became known far and wide among the cattlemen of the West, its area being increased until it comprised six thousand acres in one body.

From the very beginning of his residence in Nebraska, Stephen Boyd Miles took an active and influential part in the civic affairs of the new and growing country, and for many years was one of the leaders of the Democratic party in this section. In 1859 he was appointed on an inter-territorial committee of four members from the state of Nebraska and four members from Kansas to meet at Lecompton, Kansas, for the purpose of arranging for the creation of a new state, whose northern boundary should be the Platte river and which would be bounded on the south by the Kaw. The deliberations of the committee were rent in twain over the question of slavery and, after a stormy session at Lecompton, the joint committees disagreed and nothing came of the movement which then passed into history.

Mr. Miles also took an active part in the general business affairs of the new country, and was a stockholder of the old National Bank of St. Louis,



which failed during the Civil War period. In 1872, in association with William Nichols, of St. Louis, he organized the Commercial Bank of St. Louis, and in 1882 he organized the First National Bank of Falls City and continued as its president until his death. In 1884 he organized the Bank of Rulo at Rulo, Nebraska, later changed to the State Bank of Rulo, and remained president of the latter institution until his death. He had ever retained a warm interest and affection for his old home town back in Pennsylvania, and in 1890, he returned there and established the Miles National Bank of Delta, becoming president of the same. Joseph H. Miles, his son, became cashier, and bought his father's interest in the bank in 1894.

Stephen B. Miles departed this life on October 30, 1898. His death marked the passing of one of the strong and historical figures of Richardson county and Nebraska. He was essentially a builder, whose creations stand to this day as monuments to his enterprise and industry. He builded solidly and substantially, as few men of his day and time have done.

Mr. Miles was reared in the Presbyterian faith and ever took a proper interest in benevolent works, his purse being open in time of need or distress to his fellowmen, but he was not an active churchman. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and took considerable interest in lodge work and affairs, though his business activities seemed more important to him than the social diversions of life.

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### SAMUEL LICHTY.

One of the best-remembered citizens of a past generation in Richardson county, who is deserving of having his life-record perpetuated on the pages of local history, along with other sterling characters who have made this one of the banner counties of Nebraska, was the local Samuel Lichy. He was born, September 29, 1847, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, a son of Solomon Lichy and wife. When young in years, he removed with his parents to Carroll county, Illinois, and in March, 1875 came to Falls City, Nebraska, and engaged in the banking business with John Hinton. He made his first visit to Nebraska in 1869, when he purchased land. After several years residence in Falls City, he withdrew from the banking business and purchased a farm, two and one-half miles northwest of Falls City, where he resided until 1902, when he sold out and moved back to

Falls City. He had been equally successful as a farmer as he was a banker, and by his industry and judicious management accumulated a handsome competency. He was also successful in other lines of endeavor, notably the insurance business. It was due to his efforts that the Legislature of Nebraska, during its session of 1887, passed an act permitting the organization of farmers mutual insurance companies, and the following year he organized the Richardson County Mutual Insurance Company. He became its secretary, the duties of which responsible position he discharged with ability and credit until his death; in fact, it was very largely due to his efforts that the undertaking proved to be successful. In 1897 and 1898 he served as deputy state insurance inspector.

Mr. Lichty was active and influential in public affairs, for he served to the satisfaction of all concerned in the offices of school director, road overseer and as a member of the county board of supervisors to which he was elected in 1886, serving two years. In his earlier life he was a Republican, but when the Farmers Alliance was organized in 1889 he joined it and was either a Populist or Prohibitionist. At one time the taxpayers demanded that the county wards and county officials be investigated, so Mr. Lichty was chosen chairman of the investigating committee. He was a director and a member of the Dwelling House Mutual Insurance Company, and was a charter member of the Nebraska Mutual Insurance Company. He was an able adjuster, a successful insurance writer, careful and honest in all his work. He was always a great admirer of William J. Bryan and was a Free Silver Prohibitionist. While deputy insurance inspector, he exposed the methods of the insurance department as practiced by his chief, whereby, it was alleged, a wholesale graft was practiced, the Federal and other insurance companies being the victims. Whereas, the law provided for five dollars per day and expenses for inspecting insurance companies in Nebraska the examiners habitually charged the companies from one hundred dollars to two hundred and fifty dollars for services and, it was charged, pocketed the proceeds. Mr. Lichty secured evidence of the graft which he presented before the state Legislature for investigation. His action raised quite a furor, and for his work in this line he was dismissed from office by his superior on February 10, 1899. Governor Poynter took a stand on the question and thus the work of the subject of this sketch as a reformer resulted in the accomplishment of much good, his actions being heartily endorsed by the law-abiding people of the state, but it was



by no means pleasing to the politicians. He was also commended by the best people for refusing to accept railroad passes, or in any way placing himself under obligations to corporations or anyone asking favors they were not entitled to.

Mr. Lichty was an active member of the Brethren church and assisted in every department of church work. For a number of years he was secretary and treasurer of the National Home Missionary Society of that church, and gave up the duties of the same only when compelled to do so on account of failing health.

The following is self-explanatory:

"To Whom This May Come, Greetings:

"At the national conference of the Brethren church, met at Dayton, Ohio, August 31, 1913, following the resignation of Bro. Samuel Lichty of Falls City, Nebraska, as secretary and treasurer of the Missionary Board of the Brethren church, the following resolution was ordered incorporated in the regular resolution of the conference.

"That we most heartily and lovingly express our fullest appreciation in behalf of Samuel Lichty in his great and effective work as secretary and treasurer of the Missionary Board of the Brethren church and commend his successful administration to his successor.

"By the order of the same conference, the copy has been herewith prepared and signed and sealed by the officers of the said conference for presentation to Samuel Lichty for personal preservation.

(SEAL)

J. L. GILLIN, Moderator.  
DYOLL BELOTE, Secretary."

Mr. Lichty was charitably inclined and known as a liberal and cheerful giver to all worthy causes. He always advocated giving to charity work and the missions, and was a frequent contributor of interesting and forceful articles on this subject to various publications.

Mr. Lichty was first married to Olive Ransom on March 26, 1876, in Carroll county, Illinois. To this union two children were born, namely: Ransom, who lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Mrs. C. A. Marsh, who lives in Denver, Colorado. The death of Mrs. Olive Lichty occurred on December 22, 1896. The second marriage of Mr. Lichty occurred on January 27, 1898, when he espoused Ellen Gnagey, of Milledgeville, Illinois. She was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, July 29, 1860, and is a daughter of Joel and Catherine (Fike) Gnagey. The father was born on February 9, 1836, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in the old family homestead there, his parents having been pioneer settlers in that section of the Keystone state. He is still living and is remarkably well-preserved for one of his advanced years. He has long been engaged in the ministry of the Brethren church and is still filling the pulpit occasionally at Myersdale, Somerset county, Pennsylvania. To Mr. Lichty and his second wife one child was born, Ruth,

who is, at this time, a student in Ashland College, Ashland, Ohio, where she is making an excellent record.

The death of Samuel Lichty occurred on December 15, 1915, at the age of sixty-eight years. He had lived a successful, useful and highly commendable life, deserving of the high esteem in which he was held wherever he was known.

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### THOMAS J. GIST.

Thomas J. Gist, secretary, treasurer and manager of the Leo Cider and Vinegar Company at Falls City, former vice-president of the Falls City State Bank, former deputy county treasurer and for years actively identified with the general commercial and industrial affairs of Falls City and of Richardson county, is a native of the neighboring state of Missouri, but has been a resident of this county since he was four years of age. He was born at Tipton, May 2, 1863, son of Silas P. and Margaret (Black) Gist, natives of Kentucky and Tennessee, respectively, who were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth and the first-born of whom died in infancy, the others being as follow: Phoebe, who married W. A. Greenwald, of Allentown, Pennsylvania, and is now deceased; Luella, deceased; William, deceased; Samuel, deceased, and Ray, who is vice-president of the Humboldt State Bank of Humboldt, this county.

Both Silas P. Gist and Margaret Black were orphaned when children, both being reared by kinsfolk. They were married in Kentucky, and in 1860 came west and settled on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Tipton, Missouri, where they remained until 1867, the year in which Nebraska was admitted to the sisterhood of states, when they came over into the new state and settled on a farm in the neighborhood of Salem, in the precinct of Grant, in this county. Two years later they left the farm and moved into the village of Salem, where Silas P. Gist engaged in the grain and live-stock business. Later he extended his operations to include the general mercantile business and, from the very beginning of his residence in that village, became one of the most active factors in the development of the same. For the past thirty-five years he has been engaged in the banking business, president of the Bank of Salem and president of the State Bank of Humboldt, and, despite the fact that he is now past eighty-two years of



age, still takes an active part in the business affairs with which he so long has been connected. His first wife died in 1913, at the age of seventy-two years, and at the age of seventy-eight he married again.

As noted above, Thomas J. Gist was but four years of age when his parents moved over from Missouri into this county and he grew up at Salem, supplementing the elementary education he received in the schools of that village by attendance for a year at the Nebraska State University. In 1880 he became engaged, in association with his father, in the mercantile business at Salem, remaining there until 1886, in which year he received the appointment as deputy treasurer of Richardson county and for four years thereafter was engaged in performing the duties of that office, residing during that time at Falls City, where, in 1888, he married. Upon the completion of his service in the court house, in 1890, Mr. Gist resumed the mercantile business and was thus engaged until 1893, when he helped to organize the Falls City State Bank and was made vice-president of the same. Mr. Gist continued actively engaged in the banking business until 1911, when he was made secretary-treasurer and general manager of the Leo Cider and Vinegar Company, and has since given his undivided attention to the affairs of that flourishing concern, though retaining his stock in the bank and remaining a member of the board of directors of the same. Mr. Gist is a Democrat and, since the days of his boyhood, has given his earnest attention to local civic affairs. In addition to his service in the county treasurer's office years ago, he has given several years of service to the city as councilman from his ward. He was first elected to the city council in 1901 and served for four years thereafter and again in 1915 he was elected to the council, during all that period of service giving his best attention to city affairs.

It was on September 5, 1888, that Thomas J. Gist was united in marriage, at Falls City, to Annie Reavis, who was born in that city, daughter of Judge Isham and Annie M. (Dorrington) Reavis, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of New York, who were among the most prominent of the early settlers at Falls City and the latter of whom is still living there. Judge Isham Reavis, who was for years one of the most influential men in this part of the state, died in 1914. To Thomas J. and Anna (Reavis) Gist, four children have been born, namely: Isham Reavis, a graduate of the Nebraska State University, who is now assistant cashier of the State Bank of Humboldt; Silas Frank, who is engaged in the manufacture of vinegar at Springfield, Missouri; Annie M., who is now attending the Nebraska

State University, and Elizabeth W., at home. Mr. and Mrs. Gist are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and the former has been a member of the official board of the same for the past thirty years. He is a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the local lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and in the affairs of both of these organizations takes a warm interest. Mrs. Gist long has been an active participant in the club life of the city, doing much toward the extension of the cultural activities of the community, and is widely known in the work of women's clubs throughout the state. She received her education in the Illinois Women's College, of which educational institution she is a graduate in the classics and music, and a member of the board of regents. For the past twenty years Mrs. Gist has served as pipe organist for the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Gist was president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs from 1910 to 1913, and she served as state secretary of the General Federation of Women's Clubs from 1913 to 1915. Her ability as an organizer and public speaker is recognized and her active interest in affairs affecting the advancement of women in public spheres of usefulness has been considerable. Mrs. Gist is a member of and was the first regent of Reavis-Ashley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and, at present, is filling the post of state chairman as a member of the national committee of the organization. For the past twenty years she has served as pipe organist at the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### CHARLES A. LORD.

All do not reach the heights to which they aspire, but some by perseverance and courage make stepping-stones of their adversities and finally attain the goal sought. But as a rule long years of struggle must necessarily precede any accomplishment of important magnitude. Such has been the history, briefly stated, of Charles A. Lord, successful automobile distributor, now living in the city of Lincoln, but formerly one of the enterprising business men of Shubert, this county.

Charles A. Lord was born on March 21, 1868, in Rushville, Illinois, a son of Joseph and Anna (Boyd) Lord, the former a native of England and the latter of Illinois, who became pioneers of Richardson county and here spent their last days.

Joseph Lord was born in 1828. He grew to manhood in England



and there attended school. In 1844, when twenty-five years of age, he emigrated to America, coming on West to Illinois, locating on a farm, and soon thereafter he married Anna Boyd, who was born in that state in 1830. Her parents were pioneers there. Mr. Lord continued to operate his farm in Illinois until 1868, when he removed to Nebraska, settling in Richardson county, buying land that had been only partly improved. It was in the old Indian Reservation, three and one-half miles southwest of Salem, and there he established the future home of the family. He worked hard in developing his land into a good farm, making extensive improvements in the way of buildings, etc., and there he continued farming and stock raising until his death in 1874. His widow survived him many years, dying in 1902 on the old homestead, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. To these parents twelve children were born, seven sons and five daughters, namely: James, Frances, William and Elizabeth, all deceased; Robert A., a retired farmer, who is now making his home in Oklahoma City; Mrs. Sarah Ellen Clark, who also lives in the state of Oklahoma; Joseph and Josephine, twins, the former of whom is engaged in farming south of Salem, Richardson county, and the latter, now Mrs. Harris, living in the town of Salem; Mrs. Amanda M. Moore, a widow and the owner of extensive ranches in Nebraska; Joshua S., cashier of the First National Bank of Falls City, a landowner of Richardson county and formerly representative from this county to the state Legislature, who is mentioned in a separate sketch in this volume; Charles A., the subject of this biographical review, and Thomas, who is a prosperous farmer near Peru, in Nemaha county, Nebraska.

Charles A. Lord grew to manhood on the home farm, where he worked when a boy during the crop seasons, attending the district schools in the winter time—Rock Creek, No. 72, in Salem precinct. Later he was a student in the high school at Salem. He left school in 1888 and learned the barber's trade, which he followed in Salem twelve years. In 1901 he bought a hardware and furniture store at Shubert, this county, to which he added implements, harness and an undertaking business. He took a course in embalming in a school in Omaha, receiving a first-grade certificate in 1902. He conducted his various business interests in Shubert with very satisfactory results until 1910, when he sold out and removed to Lincoln, where he turned his attention to the automobile distributing business and has continued in this line to the present time with ever-increasing success. Mr. Lord is agent for the Hudson automobile in the South Platte territory and

for the state of Nebraska and the northern part of Kansas for the Lexington and Harroun cars. He maintains one of the finest and most modern exhibit rooms in Lincoln, occupying the first floor and basement of the Eagle building, at 230 North Twelfth street. He distributes one thousand automobiles annually, thus making him the second largest distributor in the state. He understands every phase of the business in which he is now engaged and has met with pronounced success from the first. He also is a stockholder in the bank at Elk Creek, Nebraska, the Orpheum Theater building, the Platner-Yale Manufacturing Company, both of Lincoln; owns two hundred and twenty-five feet of business blocks on O street, Lincoln, and also a fine fruit farm near Peru, Nebraska, containing forty acres of apples and pears. He erected his present well-appointed and magnificent residence in Lincoln at a cost of forty thousand dollars. Mr. Lord is a man of rare business acumen and foresight and has been very successful in all his undertakings. He is one of the substantial and progressive men of affairs of Lincoln, where he is well known and influential in industrial circles.

On December 27, 1891, at Salem, this county, Charles A. Lord was married to Nellie Malone, who was born at Salem, a daughter of Morris and Anna (Young) Malone, the father a native of Ireland and the mother of Illinois. Mr. Malone came to America when a young man. He was a butcher and merchant and engaged in these lines in Salem, Nebraska, from 1870 until his death in 1902, he then being fifty-three years of age. He was a well-known and influential citizen there and one of the leaders in the Democratic party in his precinct. After his death his widow married Edward Graham, a farmer of Salem. In 1904 they moved to Shubert, and there her death occurred in 1907, at the age of fifty-nine years. Her second union was without issue and only one child, Nellie, was born to her first marriage.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lord, namely: Gladys M., who was born at Salem, where she spent her girlhood and attended the public schools, including high school. She also studied at the Shubert high school until 1910, then entered the Lincoln high school. She then took a course in the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, from which she was graduated in 1916. The second child born to Mr. and Mrs. Lord, a daughter, died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Lord is a Democrat. He belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and has also been a member of several other



lodges. Personally, he is a man of fine attributes, being honest in all his business transactions, helpful and obliging in his daily associations with the world, and a companionable and genial gentleman whom it is a pleasure to meet.

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### JOHN F. HARKENDORFF.

One of the well-known and respected farmers and stockmen of Ohio precinct, Richardson county, is John F. Harkendorff, who was born on March 3, 1869, in the locality where he still makes his home, having been contented to spend his life in his native community. He is a son of Frederick J. and Mary C. (Hasenyager) Harkendorff. Frederick J. Harkendorff, who was a son of John F. Harkendorff, one of the early pioneers of Richardson county, was born on March 11, 1841, and was thirteen years old when he came to this county from Illinois with his parents, before Nebraska was admitted to the Union. His youth was spent on the pre-emption claim on the site of the present village of Straussville. He later moved with the family to the farm in Ohio precinct, on which Frederick H. Harkendorff, brother of the subject of this sketch, now lives, where he grew to manhood and where, after his marriage, he established his home, continuing general agricultural pursuits there until 1903, when he retired from active life and moved to Falls City, where he spent the rest of his life, dying there on November 3, 1913. His widow is still living there. She was born on a farm ten miles from St. Louis, Missouri, and is a daughter of John Hasenyager and wife, who were among the pioneer settlers of Richardson county, locating on a farm in Ohio precinct. Seven children were born to Frederick J. and Mary C. Harkendorff, namely: John F., the subject of this sketch; Anna, deceased; Mary, wife of F. W. Wittrock, of Ohio precinct; Charles, of the same precinct; William, deceased; Frederick H., a farmer of Ohio precinct, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work, and Louisa, who died in infancy.

The paternal grandparents of the above-named children were John F. and Mary (Kephandt) Harkendorff. They were natives of Germany, and there they grew up, were married and made their home in Mecklenburg-Schwerin until 1852, when they emigrated with their family to America, the voyage requiring over two months. They came on West to Illinois, settling in Jackson county, but two years later left that state and came to Richardson county, Nebraska, settling on the banks of the Muddy, about

where the village of Straussville now stands. There were then but three other white men in what is now Richardson county, two of these being horse thieves, and trading posts were many miles remote, so the family endured many hardships and privations, but they persevered and established a comfortable home as a result of their industry.

John F. Harkendorff, subject of this sketch, grew to manhood on the home farm, and he attended the common schools. He rented land and worked for his father until he was twenty-three years old. He then rented seventy-three acres. He bought his present farm about 1904, and now owns a valuable and productive farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 30, and one hundred and sixty acres in section 26, Liberty precinct. His land is all well improved and under a high state of cultivation. He has a new modern, commodious home and numerous convenient out-buildings, and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser.

On March 23, 1892, Mr. Harkendorff was married to Louisa M. Bauer, a native of Arago precinct, this county, where she grew to womanhood and attended school. She is a sister of John Bauer, a citizen of Richardson county, and of whom a sketch will be found on another page of this volume, containing the history of the Bauer family. Two children have been born to John F. Harkendorff and wife, namely: William H. and Edward J., both at home with their parents. Politically, Mr. Harkendorff is a Republican. He belongs to St. Mark's Lutheran church and is a trustee of the same.

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#### JOHN A. AND GUY A. CROOK.

Crook Brothers, John A. and Guy A. Crook, of Falls City, founders of the Monarch Engineering Company, which had its origin and main offices at Falls City, with offices in Kansas City, Missouri, and Denver, Colorado, are native sons of Richardson county and are grandsons of the first permanent pioneer settler of Richardson county, the late Jesse Crook, concerning whom there is a full account elsewhere in the historical section of this volume. Under the energetic and capable management of these young men the Monarch Engineering Company has risen to become an important and prosperous concern and a vast amount of bridge construction, city paving, irrigation-dam building, and public building work has been done under their supervision. During the less than ten years which the firm has been



operating, or since 1908, its activities have constantly increased and in this year (1917) they purchased the Denver Steel and Iron Works in order to facilitate the material supply part of the construction work in which they are engaged.

John A. Crook, senior member of the Monarch Engineering Company, was born in Falls City, April 9, 1879, and is a son of Hon. W. H. Crook, well-known hardware merchant of Falls City. John A. Crook received his education in the public and high schools of Falls City and studied in the State University. He pursued an engineering course with the International Correspondence School, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and was first employed with the Canton Bridge Company, of Omaha, as structural and construction engineer for two years, 1898-1900. He returned to Falls City in 1900, entered the employ of the John Gilligan Bridge Company and remained with this concern until 1908. He then established the Monarch Engineering Company, being joined by his brother, Guy A., in 1910. In October of 1916 the magnitude of the business growth of the concern required that he locate in Denver, Colorado, where he has charge of the Denver Steel and Iron Works and looks after the company's Western operations.

Mr. Crook was married in 1900 to Miss Minnie Dalbey, of Coin, Iowa, a daughter of George W. Dalbey. Two children have blessed this union, namely: Constance, aged thirteen years, and John A., Jr., deceased.

Mr. Crook is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and has taken all degrees in Masonry up to and including the thirty-second degree, having taken both the York and Scottish Rite Degrees. He is also affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Guy A. Crook, junior member of the Monarch Engineering Company, was born June 9, 1885, in Falls City, and is a son of W. H. Crook, concerning whom an extended biography is given elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Crook received his early education in the Falls City public and high schools, after which he entered the University of Nebraska and was graduated from the engineering department of the same in 1908, with the degree of Civil Engineer. Following his graduation he was engaged in the automobile business in Falls City for a period of two years. He then became a partner with his brother in the Monarch Engineering Company and has assisted materially in building up this important concern to the position which it now enjoys.

Mr. Crook was married on April 18, 1911, to Miss Florence Harman, a daughter of J. S. and Sadie Harman, of Tecumseh, Nebraska. Two



JOHN A. CROOK  
JOHN A. CROOK, JR.  
W. H. CROOK  
JESSE CROOK  
Four Generations of the Oldest Established Family in Richardson County.





children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Crook, namely: William H., born on August 15, 1913, and Guy A., Jr., September 9, 1914.

Mr. Crook is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and is a Scottish Rite or thirty-second degree Mason. He also is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

#### MONARCH ENGINEERING COMPANY.

The Monarch Engineering Company, contractors and builders, of Falls City and Denver, is a Falls City institution begun and pushed to a place of prominence and influence in the industrial world by two young Falls City men who were born and reared in Falls City, namely, John A. and Guy A. Crook. This important concern does an immense amount of bridge construction, paving, irrigation-dam work and erection of public buildings. It was established in 1908 by John A. Crook, who was joined by his brother, Guy A. Crook, in 1910. Fifty men are constantly employed by the firm and upwards of that number, depending upon the amount of work under construction by the firm.

The construction and building work undertaken by the company is going on in several states. Much bridge work is being done and has been completed by them in Oklahoma and Nebraska. Only recently they have finished three miles of brick paving in Falls City, and have done and are doing a great deal of county work, such as highway bridges in Richardson, Nemaha, Otoe, Cass and Sarpy counties, Nebraska. One of their notable undertakings was a bridge across the Platte river at Sutherland, Nebraska, costing thirty thousand dollars. Another was the bridge across the Elkhorn river at Gretna, in Sarpy county, Nebraska, costing twenty-five thousand dollars. They have construction work going on in Missouri, South Dakota and Wyoming. The Monarch Engineering Company erected the new court house at Basin, Wyoming, at a cost of sixty thousand dollars, and are at present building two dams across the Big Horn river at Woreland, Wyoming. A big government bridge, costing twenty-six thousand dollars, is in process of construction in their charge at Umatilla, Oregon. Another government bridge is being built by them at Salt Fork, Oklahoma, between Noble and Kay counties. Only recently they have finished a government bridge at Arapahoe, in Fremont county, Wyoming. They also are erecting two large bridges in Calhoun county, Iowa.

This concern maintains offices at Falls City, Nebraska; Kansas City, Missouri, and Denver, Colorado. At the latter city they purchased in Feb-



ruary, 1917, the Denver Steel and Iron Works which are in charge of John A. Crook, the senior member of the firm. This plant is the work shop of the Monarch Engineering Company and contains a complete structural steel fabricating plant, machine shop, blackmith shop for heavy forging and culvert shop.

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### REV. ANDREW J. RUMBAUGH.

The Rev. Andrew J. Rumbaugh, a pioneer resident of the precinct of Barada, in this county, and one of the best-known and most influential ministers of the Holiness church in this section of the country, is a native of Ohio, but was reared amid pioneer conditions in Iowa and has been a resident of this county since 1868, he having established his home in the precinct of Barada, where he still lives, after his marriage in that year. He was born in Ohio on August 7, 1847, son of John and Mary (Higginbotham) Rumbaugh, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Ohio. John Rumbaugh was a member of one of the old Colonial families in Virginia. He was born in 1826 and his wife was born in 1831. They were married in Ohio and after farming in that state for some time moved to Indiana, in 1854, and in the following year, 1855, moved from the Hoosier state to Iowa, settling on a farm in Harding county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, John Rumbaugh dying there in 1901. His widow survived him for four years, her death occurring in 1905. They were the parents of twelve children, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Joseph, who is now living in Phillips county, Kansas; Thomas, deceased; James, who is living in Indiana; Albert, who is living on the old home place in Iowa; Harvey, deceased; Nancy Jane, deceased; George, deceased; Rebecca, deceased; Mrs. Lucinda Nulton, of San Diego, California, and two who died in infancy.

Andrew J. Rumbaugh was about eight years of age when his parents established their home in Hardin county, Iowa, and there he grew to manhood on the home farm, receiving his schooling in the neighboring schools, remaining there until his marriage in 1868, in which year he came over into Nebraska and in the spring of 1869 settled on the farm in Barada precinct, in this county, where he is still living, one of the real pioneers of that neighborhood. For years Mr. Rumbaugh had given close and thoughtful attention to church affairs and about 1896 began preaching, as a minister of the Holiness church and was thus engaged continuously until his retire-

ment from the ministry some little time ago. Though practically retired from the ministry, he continues, however, to preach occasionally, as the occasion or emergency arises, and has for years been regarded as one of the most influential ministers of his church in this part of the state. During the years of his active service in the pulpit, the Rev. Andrew J. Rumbaugh served his people faithfully and well and his influence for good in the community in which his labors were directed was far-reaching in many directions. Politically, he is "independent" and his efforts have ever been directed toward the extension of good government.

As noted above, it was in the year 1868, in Iowa, that the Rev. Andrew J. Rumbaugh was united in marriage to Anna Huff, who was born in Mahaska county, that state, in 1851, a daughter of Thomas and Zilpha (Hale) Huff, and to this union ten children have been born, namely: William, who died at the age of twenty years; Edward, deceased; John, who is living on a farm in Nemaha county, south of Auburn; May, wife of Ernest Slagel, of Hubbell, this state; Fred, of Montrose, Colorado; Grace, wife of Henry Leslie, of Graham county, Kansas; Iva, wife of Harry Cline, of the precinct of Barada, this county; Roy, who is also farming in Barada precinct; Daisy, wife of Fred Plympton, living near Burr, this state, and Arthur, who is looking after the home farm in Barada precinct. The Rumbaughs have a very pleasant home on the old home farm and have ever been an active influence for good in that neighborhood, taking an earnest part in all movements having to do with the advancement of the general welfare of the community.

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### JAMES T. MARGRAVE.

James T. Margrave, of Preston, vice-president of the William A. Margrave Company, one of the most extensive ranch corporations in the state of Nebraska, is a native son of Richardson county and has lived here all his life. He was born on the great Margrave ranch in the precinct of Jefferson, June 28, 1880, son of William A. and Margaret R. (Rubeti) Margrave, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Kansas, and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume in a biographical sketch relating to William C. Margrave, elder brother of the subject of this sketch and president of the William A. Margrave Company. The late William A. Margrave, who for years was one of the



most extensive cattlemen in Nebraska, was but fifteen years of age when he came to this part of the country with his parents from Illinois in 1860, the family locating at Hiawatha, and he early entered upon a career which eventually marked him as one of the most successful men hereabout, the owner of thousands of acres of land and one of the most successful cattlemen in this part of the state. He married Margaret R. Rubeti, who was born in the neighboring county of Doniphan and who at the time of her marriage was teaching in the Indian school at Reserve, and after his marriage established his home in the vicinity of Preston, in Jefferson precinct, this county, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in the summer of 1906. His widow still survives him and is now living at Hiawatha. They were the parents of five children, one of whom, a daughter, died in infancy, the others being Mrs. Julia LeClere, wife of George W. LeClere, storekeeper on the Margrave estate; William C., president of the William A. Margrave Company; James T., the subject of this biographical sketch, and Earl I., secretary and treasurer of the company, who is now living at Gordon, in Sheridan county, this state, looking after the company's extensive ranch interests in that county and in the adjoining county of Cherry.

Reared on the Margrave ranch, James T. Margrave completed his schooling in the academy at Hiawatha and early became actively identified with his father's great ranch interests, presently being given charge of the ranch in the vicinity of Gordon, but has lately made his home at Preston, where he and his family are very pleasantly and very comfortably situated. In 1917 Mr. Margrave remodeled his house at Preston, making it modern in its appointments throughout, and now has one of the finest homes in the county. Mr. Margrave is a Republican, with "independent" leanings on local issues, and has ever taken an interested part in local political affairs, but has not been included in the office-seeking class.

On December 24, 1901, James T. Margrave was united in marriage to Mary Honstedt, who was born at Wilson, in Ellsworth county, Kansas, December 24, 1881, daughter of Daniel and Lucy (Bleame) Honstedt, natives of Canada and early settlers in Kansas, and to this union three children have been born, Margaret, born on March 18, 1905; William, June 2, 1907, and Stuart, September 19, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Margrave are members of the Evangelical church at Preston and take an active part in church works, as well as in the general good works of the community, Mr. Margrave being a teacher in the Sunday school. They also take an interested

part in the community's general social activities and are helpful in promoting all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare thereabout.

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### WILLIAM E. SLAGLE.

William E. Slagle, former superintendent of schools of Richardson county, former justice of the peace in and for the precinct of Barada, former assessor of that same precinct and a well-known and substantial farmer, the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and thirty acres a mile east and a mile north of the village of Barada, in the precinct of that name, is a native of the neighboring state of Iowa, but has been a resident of this county practically all the time since the days of his early infancy and is thus properly enough accounted one of the real pioneers of Richardson county. He was born on a pioneer farm in the vicinity of Anamosa, county seat of Jones county, Iowa, February 16, 1859, son of Hiram and Alma (Pike) Slagle, natives, respectively, of the state of Pennsylvania and of New York, who later became pioneers of Richardson county, remaining here until their retirement from the farm and removal to the village of Auburn, where their last days were spent.

Hiram Slagle was born in 1835, a son of Christian Slagle, of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, who was a son of John Slagle, who came to this country with two brothers in Colonial days. In 1856 Christian Slagle emigrated from Pennsylvania to Iowa with his family and settled in Jones county. There Hiram Slagle married Alma Pike, who was born in 1843, daughter of Joel Pike, who also was born in New York state, of old Puritan (New England) stock, and who had settled in Iowa. In the summer of 1859 Hiram Slagle drove from his home county in Iowa by ox-team, with his family and household belongings, seeking a new home in the then territory of Nebraska, arriving at Brownsville on July 4, and celebrating the Fourth at what then was known as Melvin's Mill, later Bennett's Mill, one of the first camps in Nebraska. On the 5th he continued his journey down into Richardson county and stopped with Jack Harris, on the Muddy, in what later came to be organized as the precinct of that name. With Hiram Slagle came his father, Christian Slagle, and all of the latter's family, Hiram at that time being the only one of the children who was married. Christian Slagle took up a homestead claim on the Sardine branch of the Muddy, north of where the village of Verdon now is situated, and there



established his home. Hiram Slagle located in the timber not far from the Muddy, near the Nemaha county line, where fuel, fish and game then were abundant, his first home there being a dug-out. He later built a log house on Beddo creek and presently, in partnership with his brother Will, bought an "eighty" a little north of there and there erected another log cabin; an old elm tree now marking the spot on what is now the Morehead tenant farm, near Morehead's Island, formerly known as Morgan's Island. When the Civil War broke out Hiram Slagle took service in the Missouri State Militia and served until the close of the war, holding down "jay-hawkers" and proceeding against guerillas. In the spring of 1867 he and his wife and three children moved to southeastern Kansas with a view to locating there, but on their arrival found conditions so unwholesome that they immediately returned and, in the fall of that year, Hiram Slagle traded a team of horses, a wagon and a set of harness for a fifty-acre tract out of the Medor-Duveil farm, in the precinct of Barada, proceeded to improve and develop the same and there made his home until his retirement from the active labors of the farm, when he and his wife moved to the village of Auburn, over in Nemaha county, where they spent their last days, his death occurring there on August 9, 1910. His widow survived him for nearly five years, her death occurring in April, 1915. Hiram Slagle was the eldest of the seven children born to Christian Slagle and wife, the others being William, James, Robert, Martha Jane, Allan T. and Catherine, all of whom came to Richardson county with their parents in 1859 and were married after taking up their residence in this county. Martha Jane Slagle became the wife of I. N. Cooper and Catherine Slagle married Daniel Harger. To Hiram Slagle and wife seven children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first born, the others being as follow: Allan Luther, who is now living in Thayer county, this state; Charles, who is living on the old home place in the precinct of Barada; Ernest, of Thayer county; John, who died in 1910; Nola, wife of Hanibal Bennett, of Saline county, this state, and Fritz, who is living on a part of the old Slagle home farm in Barada precinct.

William E. Slagle grew up on the home farm in the precinct of Barada and received his early schooling in the King school district in the neighborhood of his home. He then studied for two years at the Nebraska State Normal at Peru and, thus equipped, began teaching school and was thus engaged for three years, teaching district school in this county. He then, in 1883, was appointed county superintendent of schools, to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Schick, and served in that capacity for seven months,

meanwhile working in the hardware store of William Willing at Shubert. In the spring of 1884 Mr. Slagle homesteaded a tract of land in Rawlins county, Kansas, at the same time taking a tree-claim, and eventually "proving-up" the same, meanwhile continuing to spend his winters in the school room. In the winter of 1884-85 he attended the Teachers Institute in Nemaha county and served the following year as principal of the Nemaha city schools. Upon acquiring title to his Kansas land Mr. Slagle traded the same for a stock of merchandise owned by D. D. Honts at Shubert and presently traded that stock of goods to W. A. Cox for a seventy-acre tract of land in section 12 of the precinct of Barada, where he established his home and where he ever since has resided, he and his family having been for years very comfortably situated there. After getting the improvements well started on his original tract Mr. Slagle bought from the Stokes heirs a quarter section adjoining his place and has a splendid farm, the improvements of which are substantial and up-to-date. In addition to his general farming Mr. Slagle gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has fine Percheron horses, Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. Mr. Slagle "grew up" strong in the Republican faith, but in the memorable campaign of 1896 aligned himself alongside the "free-silver" Democrats and has ever since supported the Democratic party, though reserving his right to independence of action on local issues. For three terms he has served as justice of the peace in and for his home precinct and for three terms also served as assessor of that precinct.

On December 12, 1885, William E. Slagle was united in marriage to Sadie E. Manville, of Omaha, who was then teaching school in Douglas county, this state, and who was born at Sabetha, Kansas, May 4, 1867, daughter of R. H. and Emma (Calkins) Manville, natives of the state of Illinois and pioneers of Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Slagle have eight children, namely: Richard Hiram, who is engaged in the United States mail service at the Burlington terminal office at Omaha and who married Hattie Lilly in 1916 and has one child; Edward William, a progressive farmer of the precinct of Barada, who married Nettie Ankrom and has two children, Alice and Mildred; Harry L., who is farming eighty acres of his father's place in section 13 and who married Effie Ankrom and has three children, Nelson, Phyllis and Keith; Jay Luther, who is working on the home farm; Fay M., a student at the Nebraska State Normal at Peru and a teacher in the public schools of this county; Fritz O., who is a student in the Veterinary College at St. Joseph; Glenn, who is a student in the high school at Shubert, and John, who is attending grade school. The



Slagles have a very pleasant home in the Barada neighborhood and have ever taken an interested and useful part in the general social activities of that community. Mr. Slagle became a member of the Christian church when sixteen years of age and he and his family take a proper interest in church work, as well as in all local good works, ever helpful in promoting such movements as are designed to advance the common welfare.

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### GEORGE GIRD.

Although more than three decades have elapsed since the angel of death closed the interesting life chapter of George Gird, for many years a leading citizen of Richardson county, Nebraska, where he followed agricultural pursuits and later published the *Sentinel* at Humboldt, his influence still pervades the lives of many who had the privilege of knowing him. His influence in behalf of the general good of the locality honored by his residence was unquestioned.

Mr. Gird was born in Shelby county, Indiana, December 12, 1832. He was a son of Edward and Nancy (Power) Gird, natives of Wexford, Ireland, and Indiana, respectively. The father left his native land in 1809, sailing for New York City, where he followed his trade of baker, operating an establishment that supplied bread to the ships laving that port. He later went to Virginia, where he was married and presently located in Marion county, Indiana, later moving from there to Shelby county, that state. From there he moved to Missouri, then to Richardson county, Nebraska, in pioneer days, but he eventually returned to Shelby county, Indiana, where he died. Edward Gird was twice married, first, to a widow, a Mrs. Orr, of Virginia. Her death occurred after coming to Indiana. His second marriage was to Nancy Power, a native of Marion county, Indiana.

Edward Gird was born on March 24, 1788, and his death occurred about 1868. He was a son of Henry and Mary Gird, both natives of Ireland, where they grew up, married and established their future home, dying there.

George Gird, of this memoir, was the second son of Edward Gird and his second wife. He grew up on the farm and received such educational advantages as the early-day schools afforded. On February 27, 1856, he was married in Shelby county, Indiana, to Mary E. Gossett. They moved to Andrew county, Missouri, in 1858, and from there to Richardson county,

Nebraska in 1859, being among the early settlers here, and they endured the usual hardships and privations incident to pioneer life on the Western frontier of those days. But Mr. Gird was a man of indomitable energy and courage and he persevered in the face of obstacles until success as a general farmer and stock raiser attended his efforts. He developed an excellent farm from the wild prairie, which he brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation. He finally gave up general farming and moved to the town of Humboldt, where he became joint owner of the *Sentinel*, which he published for years and under his able management it became one of the best newspapers of its type in the state, gaining a large circulation and wielding a potent influence for good in the general up-building of Richardson and adjoining counties. Mr. Gird also lived at old Middleburg and served as postmaster there for over twenty years. He was active in public and educational affairs in Richardson county and was county commissioner for one term. He also was connected with the *Sentinel-Press* for two years and was active in Republican politics, in fact, was a leader of his party in this county for many years. He belonged to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and was widely and favorably known in southeastern Nebraska, long recognized as one of the leading men in the early days of Richardson county. His death occurred on September 7, 1885, at the age of fifty-three years.

Eight children were born to George and Mary E. (Gossett) Gird, namely: William Gird, an attorney by profession, who married at Humboldt, Nebraska, and died at San Barnardino, California, leaving a widow and two daughters; Mrs. Ida D. Spencer, who lives in Wichita, Kansas, and has three children living; George Gird, Jr., who lives at Des Moines, Iowa, where he is a salesman for the King Land and Loan Company; Mrs. Mary L. Bentz, deceased; Edward, who died in Falls City, Nebraska; John, a plumber by trade, who lives in Henrietta, Oklahoma; Arthur, now deceased, who was editor of the journal of the Mid-Western Hotel Keepers Association, of Omaha, Nebraska, and Gertrude O., the wife of John G. Irwin, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

The mother of the above-named children, who was Mary E. Gossett prior to her marriage, was born on May 25, 1839, at Greenfield, Hancock county, Indiana. She is a daughter of Abijah and Susan (Sterns) Gossett, the father a native of Highland county, Ohio, and the mother of the state of New York. Abijah Gossett, who was a talented landscape painter and musician, died in Wabash county, Indiana, in 1848, at the early age



of forty years. His widow came to Nebraska in 1866 and spent the rest of her life in Richardson county, dying in 1873, at the home of Mrs. Mary E. Gird, with whom she had spent her last years.

After the death of George Gird, his widow married Lyman Whitcomb on August 6, 1902. He was a native of Iowa and was a soldier in the Civil War, enlisting in an Indiana regiment and seeing much hard service in the Union army. He took part in many important engagements in the South, proving to be a brave and efficient soldier, and was honorably discharged after four years of service. He came to Nebraska in 1902 and located at Humboldt. His death occurred at the Soldiers Home at Leavenworth, Kansas, May 7, 1915. After his death Mrs. Whitcomb retired to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Gertrude O. Irwin, at 2952 J street, Lincoln, Nebraska, where she still resides. She owns valuable town property at Humboldt, including two residences and some business buildings. She is a member of the Christian church and has always been a woman of fine religious culture.

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### JOHN W. MOONEY.

John W. Mooney, one of Richardson county's most substantial landowners, former member of the board of county supervisors and for the past seven or eight years actively engaged in the live stock business at Rulo, where he makes his home, is a native son of Richardson county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm one mile west of the village of Rulo on January 18, 1867, son of James and Julia (Ryan) Mooney, natives of Ireland, who became pioneers of this section of Nebraska, and the former of whom is still living here, one of the well-known and well-to-do old settlers of this county, a continuous resident here since territorial days.

James Mooney was born on May 3, 1833, and when seventeen years of age, in 1850, left the Emerald Isle and came to the United States and began to work as a farm hand in the state of Vermont. He later found employment in various other Eastern states and was variously employed there until 1857, when he came West and started to seek his fortune at Omaha. From that point he worked down the river, chopping wood, and presently reached Leavenworth, where he secured the contract for cutting the timber from Kicapoo Island, remaining there until 1859, when he went to Atchison and became engaged working in a nursery. While there he

married in 1860 and became engaged in farming in the vicinity of Atchison, remaining there until 1863, when he came up into Nebraska and settled in Richardson county, establishing his home on a farm in Rulo township, one mile west of the village of that name. That was in territorial days and settlement here had not begun to set in in a very steady stream, hence James Mooney was one of the pioneers of the section in which he settled, Indians then being more plentiful thereabout than white persons. He continued to farm a rented tract of land there until about 1872, when he bought a farm, the nucleus of his present extensive land holdings, he now being the owner of about seven hundred acres of fine land in Rulo precinct and continuing to make his home on the old home place, one of the best-known pioneers in Richardson county. His wife died in 1916. She also was born in Ireland, in 1836, Julia Ryan, daughter of John and Margaret Ryan, also natives of the Emerald Isle, the former of whom died there in 1850. After the death of her husband the widow Ryan came to America with her children, coming by way of Canada, and resided in Illinois until 1859, when she came to Nebraska and settled in Richardson county. To James and Julia (Ryan) Mooney were born five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Thomas, deceased; Anna, widow of J. B. Coryse, of Effingham, Kansas; Margaret, who is at home with her father, and James P., who is farming in Rulo precinct.

Reared on the old farm in the precinct of Rulo, John W. Mooney received his early schooling in the district school in that neighborhood and in the schools at Rulo and in 1888 entered the Christian Brothers College at St. Joseph, where he took the business course. From the days of his boyhood he was an able assistant to his father in the labors of the farm and continued thus employed until 1895, when he rented a tract of land from his father and began farming on his own account. In that same year he bought an "eighty" in the precinct of Rulo and after his marriage in the spring of 1899 established his home there, continuing to make that his place of residence until 1910, when he retired from the farm and moved to the village of Rulo, where he since has made his home, actively engaged in the buying and selling of live stock, one of the best-known stockmen in Richardson county. Mr. Mooney has been quite successful in his farming and stock-raising operations and is now the owner of about six hundred acres of land in Rulo and Jefferson precincts and is a large feeder of cattle and hogs, feeding the same for market and shipping from Rulo. Politically, he is an "independent" Democrat. In 1901 he was elected a member of



the board of county supervisors from the fifth district and held that position until 1903.

On May 4, 1899, John W. Mooney was united in marriage to Clara Winterbottom, also a native of Richardson county, born at Rulo in the month of May, 1877, daughter of J. S. and Janet (Thompson) Winterbottom, both of whom were born at Adina, Missouri, and who settled at Rulo in 1865. J. S. Winterbottom was a veteran of the Civil War, having enlisted for service in the Union army at St. Louis. He died in this county in 1911, at the age of sixty-seven years, and his widow is still living at Rulo, being now past seventy-one years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Mooney have six children, Mary, Janet, James, John, Gregory and Clara. The family are members of the Catholic church and take an interested part in parish affairs. Mr. Mooney is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus at Falls City and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

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#### HENRY C. ZOELLER.

Henry C. Zoeller, proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred acres in the vicinity of Preston, in the precinct of Jefferson, this county, former justice of the peace in and for that precinct and one of the best-known farmers and stockmen in that neighborhood, is a native son of Richardson county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in the precinct of Arago on January 6, 1867, son of Charles and Ernestine (Klose) Zoeller, natives of Prussia, who were married in their native land, later coming to this country and settling at Buffalo, New York, where they remained until 1864, in which year they came with their family to the then Territory of Nebraska and settled in this county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, useful and influential pioneers.

Charles Zoeller was born on September 17, 1824, and grew to manhood in his native Prussia, becoming a skilled carpenter. In 1849 he married Ernestine Klose, who also was born in Prussia, January 17, 1828, and in 1854 came to the United States, locating at Buffalo, New York, where he became engaged in the building trades and where he remained for ten years, or until 1864, when he came to Nebraska and bought a tract of land in the precinct of Arago, this county, where he established his home and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. His death occurred on April 5, 1877, and his widow survived him for many years, her death

occurring on January 12, 1914. They were the parents of eleven children, three of whom died in infancy, the others being as follow: Oscar, a retired farmer of this county, now living at Falls City; William J., a farmer of the precinct of Jefferson; Mary, wife of C. F. Pribbeno, of Preston, one of Richardson county's most extensive landowners and a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Charles F., of Happy, Texas; Herman, a farmer of the precinct of Falls City; Henry C., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Ida Walker, of Santa Ana, California, and Mrs. Emma Baker, who died at Nebraska City.

Reared on the pioneer farm on which he was born, in the precinct of Arago, Henry C. Zoeller received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and when eighteen years of age began working on his own account as a farm hand, receiving for such service from ten to twelve dollars a month and reserving three months in the year for school attendance. When twenty-one years of age he bought a farm of one hundred and forty acres in the precinct of Falls City, which farm is now a part of the Brecht estate, and a couple of years later, in 1890, traded that place for his present home farm in section 28 of the precinct of Jefferson. In 1891 Mr. Zoeller married and established his home on this latter place and there has resided ever since, he and his family being very comfortably situated. They have a fine, modern eight-room house, with gas lights, furnace and hot and cold running water, and the farm plant is in keeping with the same. Mr. Zoeller has three hundred acres of well-improved and profitably cultivated land, one of the best-kept places in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming Mr. Zoeller has for years given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done well with Shorthorn cattle, mixed Duroc and Poland China hogs and mules. He has a three-acre orchard and his place is well equipped with all the latest appliances for successful agriculture. Mr. Zoeller is a Republican and has served the public in the capacity of justice of the peace in and for his home precinct.

On August 25, 1891, Henry C. Zoeller was united in marriage to Martha Shelly, of this county, who was born in the state of Pennsylvania on July 6, 1873, daughter of Philip and Lavina (Shutt) Shelly, who became residents of this county years ago and further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union four children have been born, Rhine, who is farming in Jefferson precinct, and Herbert, Beulah and Ralph, at home. The Zoellers have a very pleasant home and take an interested part in the community's general social activities. Mr. Zoeller is a member of the local lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Rulo and takes an active interest in Masonic affairs.



## JOHN H. BAUER.

John H. Bauer, one of Richardson county's well-known farmers and stockmen and the proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in the precinct of Ohio, was born in that precinct and has lived there all his life, at present owning a part of the parental acres in that precinct, the place where his parents settled back in pioneer days. He was born there on February 19, 1875, son of Joachim and Mary (Telk) Bauer, prominent pioneers of that section and the latter of whom is still living.

Joachim Bauer was of European birth, a Mecklenburger, born on April 10, 1833, who came to this country in the days of his young manhood and after a sometime residence in Illinois came to Nebraska and settled on a pioneer farm in the precinct of Ohio, this county, becoming one of the substantial farmers and landowners of that part of the county. He developed an excellent piece of property there and there spent his last days, his death occurring in 1908. His widow, who still survives him, is now making her home with her youngest son, Herman Bauer, in Ohio precinct, she now being in the eightieth year of her age. To Joachim Bauer and wife were born seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Eliza, wife of William Gebhard, of Ohio precinct; Joseph, now a resident of Texas; Mary, wife of A. Gebhard, of Verdon, this county; Mrs. Louisa Harkendorff, of the precinct of Ohio, and Henry and Herman, both well-known farmers of that same precinct.

Reared on the home farm in the precinct of Ohio, John H. Bauer received his schooling in the district schools of that neighborhood and in St. Paul's German Lutheran school and from the days of his boyhood was a valued aid to his father and brothers in the labors of developing and improving the home acres. When twenty-one years of age he rented a tract of land from his father and began farming on his own account and after his marriage a year later established his home on that place. Two years later, in 1899, he bought the place from his father and has ever since made his home there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. He built a modern house, set out trees and made other improvements until now he has one of the best farm plants in that part of the county. Mr. Bauer is the owner of two hundred and forty acres lying in sections 4 and 6 and is doing well in his farming operations. In 1916 he began to engage somewhat more extensively in the breeding of Hereford cattle, with a view to holding stock sales, the leaders of his herd being "Sequel 483489,"

bred by J. J. Early, of Baring, Missouri. Mr. Bauer is a Democrat and has ever taken an interested part in local political affairs, always interested in movements having to do with the advancement of the general welfare of his home community.

On February 25, 1897, John H. Bauer was united in marriage to Mary Grosseohmig, who was born in the kingdom of Saxony on August 13, 1875, and who was but seven years of age when she came to this country with her parents, Edward and Helen (Laudenbauch) Grosseohmig, also natives of Saxony, the family settling in the precinct of Barada, in this county. Edward Grosseohmig and wife are now living in the precinct of Ohio, well-known old settlers of Richardson county. Mr. and Mrs. Bauer have three children, Walter, Edward and Howard. They are members of the Lutheran church and have ever taken an interested part in church work and other neighborhood good works. They have a pleasant home and give proper attention to the general social activities of their home community.

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#### ERNEST ZIMMERMANN.

Ernest Zimmermann, one of Arago precinct's well-known and progressive farmers, who is farming a fine place of one hundred and twenty acres belonging to his father in section 28 of that precinct, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life. He was born on July 3, 1879, son of Louis and Mollie Almira (Reschke) Zimmermann, natives of the grand duchy of Baden, who became pioneers of this county and the former of whom is still living here, now a resident of Falls City, where his wife died in September, 1916, she then being seventy-two years of age. They were the parents of eight children, of whom four are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Gust. and Godfrey, farmers of Arago precinct, and Emma, wife of P. Baker, also a farmer of that precinct.

Reared on the pioneer farm on which he was born, Ernest Zimmermann received his schooling in the schools of district No. 28 and from the days of his boyhood was a valued aid in the labors of improving and developing the home place. When twenty-one years of age he began farming on his own account, renting a part of the home farm from his father, and after his marriage in the fall of 1906 established his home there and has ever since resided there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Zimmermann gives considerable atten-



tion to the raising of high-grade live stock, with particular reference to Shorthorn cattle and Hampshire hogs, and is doing very well.

On October 25, 1906, Ernest Zimmermann was united in marriage to Mary Hartmann, who was born in the precinct of Jefferson, this county, July 1, 1887, daughter of Frederick and Katherine (Singer) Hartmann, who were the parents of five children, three sons and two daughters. After the death of Frederick Hartmann his widow married Benjamin N. Kopf and is still living in Jefferson precinct. Mr. and Mrs. Zimmermann have one child, a son, Edward B., born on June 2, 1908. They are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and take an interested part in church work, as well as in the general good works of their community. Mr. Zimmermann is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office.

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#### WILLIAM L. LIETZKE.

William L. Lietzke, one of the well-known farmers of Arago precinct, this county, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was thirteen years of age and of Richardson county since he was seventeen, having come here with his parents in 1885, the family settling in the precinct of Arago, where he ever since has made his home. He was born in Prussia on October 25, 1868, son of Henry and Adaline (Fromke) Lietzke, also natives of Prussia, the former born on February 28, 1841, and the latter, March 30, 1839, who came to this country with their family in 1881 and settled in New York state, where they remained until 1885, in which year they came to Nebraska and settled in Arago precinct, this county. Henry Lietzke, bought a farm upon his arrival here and spent the rest of his active life farming. He died in 1911 and his widow is still living, now a resident of the village of Barada, where she is making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Heine. To Henry Lietzke and wife were born seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Albert, who is still a resident of his native land; Charles, who is living at Syracuse, New York; Otto, of Shubert, this county; Mrs. Emma Portner, of Jefferson precinct, this county; Mrs. Henrietta Heine, of Barada, and Mrs. Alvine Fink, deceased.

As noted above, William L. Lietzke was thirteen years of age when he came to this country from Prussia with his parents and was seventeen

when he came with them from New York state to Richardson county. He completed his schooling in the schools of this county and remained at home, a valued help in the labors of the home farm, until his marriage in the summer of 1890, when he rented a farm in Arago precinct and began farming on his own account. In 1911 he bought his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres in section 8 of that precinct and has since made his home there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of that farm Mr. Lietzke has made numerous substantial improvements on the same and has a very well-kept farm plant and is doing well.

On July 30, 1890, William L. Lietzke was united in marriage to Bertha Fricke, who was born in this county on December 27, 1871, daughter of August and Dora (McKoel) Fricke, natives of Germany and pioneers of Richardson county and the latter of whom is still living, now a resident of Falls City, and to this union have been born six children, August, Walter, Bertha, Anna, Clarence and Dora, all of whom are at home. The Lietzkes are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper part in local church work as well as in the general social activities of their home neighborhood.

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#### WILLIAM HERBSTER.

William Herbster, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and forty acres of excellent land in section 9 of the precinct of Arago, this county, and one of the best-known farmers in that part of the county, is of European birth, but has been a resident of Richardson county since he was twelve years of age. He was born in the grand duchy of Baden on September 6, 1868, son of Fred and Caroline (Branch) Herbster, and is the youngest child of that parentage.

Fred Herbster and his wife also were natives of Baden, the former born on September 1, 1840, and the latter on June 26, 1840. In 1881 they came to the United States with their family and proceeded on out to Nebraska, settling in the old village of Arago, this county. Fred Herbster was a shoemaker in his native land and during the first two winters spent at Arago he worked at that trade, spending his summers on the farm he had bought in the precinct of that name. He eventually had his home farm under cultivation and gradually developed a good piece of property there in section 9, spending the remainder of his life on that place, his death



occurring in 1900. His widow survived him for about eight years, her death occurring in 1908.

As noted above, William Herbster was twelve years of age when he came to this county with his parents from his native Baden and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Arago precinct, completing his schooling in the local schools, and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of improving and developing the home place. At the death of his father he became heir to twenty acres of the old home place and he afterward bought the rest of the place and has since been the owner of the same, a fine tract of one hundred and forty acres in section 9 of the precinct of Arago, on which he has made excellent improvements and where he is quite successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, long having been regarded as one of the substantial farmers of that section. Politically, Mr. Herbster is a Republican; by religious persuasion, a Lutheran, and takes a proper interest in the political, religious and social affairs of his home community, helpful in promoting all causes having to do with the advancement of the general welfare of that neighborhood in which he has lived since the days of his boyhood.

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### JOHN H. NOLTE.

John H. Noble, one of the well-known and substantial farmers of Arago precinct, this county, owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in section 28 of that precinct and a farm of eighty acres in Morris county, Kansas, is a native of the old Hoosier state, but has been a resident of this county since the days of his infancy, his parents having settled here in 1877. He was born at Richmond, Indiana, March 16, 1874, son of Christopher H. and Anna M. (Cruvell) Nolte, both of whom were of European birth, who became pioneers of Richardson county and the former of whom is still living here, at a ripe old age.

Christopher H. Nolte was born in the kingdom of Hanover on May 23, 1841, son of Lecker Nolte and wife, who were the parents of three children. The mother had been previously married and was the mother of five children by her previous marriage. Reared in Hanover, Christopher H. Nolte there learned the carpenter's trade and worked at the same there for eleven years, at the end of which time he came to the United States, landing with forty-five dollars and two suits of clothes. His point of destination

was Richmond, Indiana, and when he arrived there he had but thirteen dollars. He began working at his trade in that city and on February 10, 1870, married there Anna M. Cruvell, who also was born in Germany, January 21, 1845, and who had come to this country in 1864, locating at Richmond, Indiana. After his marriage Christopher H. Nolte continued to make his home in Richmond until 1877, in which year he came to Nebraska with his family and bought a quarter of a section of land in section 28 of the precinct of Arago, in this county, and there established his home. Seventy acres of that tract was timber land and while clearing the same he hauled six hundred cords of wood to Falls City. As he prospered in his farming operations Christopher H. Nolte added to his holdings until he became a considerable landowner in that section of the county and still owns two hundred and forty acres, although he has sold considerable of his land since retiring from the active labors of the farm in 1906. His wife died on September 12, 1911, and he is now making his home with his granddaughter, Mrs. Albert Hecht, of Arago precinct. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: George L., deceased; Mrs. Elizabeth Scheitel, of Arago precinct; Charles A., of the precinct of Ohio; Martin, of that same precinct; Fred E., living on section 27 of Arago precinct, and Samuel, of section 20 of that same precinct.

As noted above, John H. Nolte was but a small child when his parents came to this county and he grew up on the home farm in the precinct of Arago, receiving his schooling in the district schools of that neighborhood. For five years he worked as a farm hand and then rented a tract of land and began farming on his own account, continuing thus engaged until 1908, when he bought one hundred and sixty acres of his father's home place, the original quarter section in section 28, and has since made his home there. In 1912 he bought an adjoining "forty" from Ernest Werner and now has a fine farm of two hundred acres, on which he has made many substantial improvements since taking possession of the same. In addition to his land in this county Mr. Nolte owns a farm of eighty acres in Morris county, Kansas, and is quite well circumstanced, his holdings having been earned by his own efforts. In addition to this general farming he ships annually a couple of carloads of cattle and about one hundred and twenty-five head of hogs and is doing well in his live-stock operations, making a specialty of Herefords and Duroc-Jerseys.

On March 12, 1902, John H. Nolte was united in marriage to Lena Zorn, who was born in the precinct of Arago, this county, December 31,



1881, daughter of Christ and Bertha (Schmechel) Zorn, natives of Germany and pioneers of Richardson county, the latter of whom is still living, now a resident of the precinct of Ohio. Christ Zorn was born on April 1, 1845, and when sixteen years of age, in 1861, came to the United States, locating in Illinois, where he remained until 1863, in which year he came to the then Territory of Nebraska and settled in this county, where he spent the remainder of his life, a prosperous and successful farmer and stockman, at the time of his death on August 22, 1902, the owner of nine "eighties" of land in this county. He was married after coming to this county and his widow, who were born on February 23, 1855, still survives him. They were the parents of eight children, four sons and four daughters, all of whom are living save one of the sons, residents of Richardson county. Mr. and Mrs. Nolte have two children, Esther, born on January 4, 1903, and Chester, January 13, 1916. The Noltes have a very pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social activities of their home neighborhood. They are members of the Lutheran church and also take a proper part in church work and in general neighborhood good works.

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#### LEONARD G. SHELLENBARGER.

Leonard G. Shellenbarger, of Porter township, this county, ranks with the foremost farmers and stockmen in the vicinity of Richardson county. In addition to his work on two hundred and forty acres of land which he rents, and on a portion of which he has been successfully growing wheat and corn, he is also engaged in the breeding of high-grade cattle and hogs. He was born on April 27, 1877, in Warren county, Illinois, and is the son of David and Anna (Ulmer) Shellenbarger, both natives of Pennsylvania, who came to this part of Nebraska in an early day.

David Shellenbarger was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, in 1837 and died on May 20, 1905. He was the son of George and Polly (Smiley) Shellenbarger, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively, and to whom ten children were born, of whom David was the youngest. With the latter they made their home for some years and died on the farm now operated by their grandson, Leonard G. Shellenbarger. David Shellenbarger came out from his native state to the West for the benefit of his health and came later to Stella, Nebraska, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, for which he paid twenty-five dollars per acre. Successful in his

farming operations, he took up the breeding of stock, purchasing numbers of calves and feeding for the market, and in this branch of agricultural activity he was equally successful. At the time of his death in 1905 he was the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land, now worked by his son, Leonard G., the subject of this sketch. His wife, Anna (Ulmer) Shellenbarger, was born in 1855 in Pennsylvania, the daughter of Henry Ulmer and wife, natives of Pennsylvania, who went to Illinois in an early day and there spent the rest of their lives, farming people. David and Anna Shellenbarger were the parents of seven children, of whom Leonard G. was the fifth in the order of birth, the others being Morris, who lives at Stella; Allie, who married J. Spivy and lives in Lincoln, this state; Alfred, living in Stella; Harry, who lives in Furnas county, this state; Artie, a farmer, living in Stella, and Mrs. Gertrude Swan, living in Bellwood, Nebraska.

Leonard G. Shellenbarger, the subject of this sketch, was reared in Richardson county and attended the district schools of his neighborhood, later going to the Stella high school, from which he was graduated in 1898. In the following year he started for himself as a farmer and rented land and has been ever since engaged in farming and stock raising, and has met with considerable success. In 1916 he began farming on his present holding, and in the pursuit of his agricultural interests he has brought the highest form of scientific methods to work, thus securing the largest results. He formerly set out seventy acres to wheat and corn, but in 1916 reduced the quantity to forty acres, from which he raised a yield of forty bushels to the acre. In addition to his labors on the farm he is also engaged in feeding cattle and hogs, also obtaining maximum results from these lines.

On February 18, 1902, Leonard G. Shellenbarger was united in marriage to Bessie Knapp, who was born in Richardson county, the daughter of Miles and Fannie (Proctor) Knapp, who settled early in this county and who were farming people. Mrs. Shellenbarger was born on March 2, 1880, attended the district schools and later was graduated from the Stella high school. To Mr. and Mrs. Shellenbarger four children have been born, namely: Raymond, Blanche, Vivian and Emery, all of whom are living with their parents and attending the local schools. All the family are members of the Lutheran church, of which they are liberal supporters. In political affairs Mr. Shellenbarger is a supporter of the Democratic party, but has never been a seeker after public office, preferring to devote his time to his farming and stock raising. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Daughters of Rebekah. Mr. Shellenbarger began his working career herding cattle on the plains, doing his



work in bare feet. Some time later his father gave him a colt to break and which he used for two years and then set fencing around the holding. He frequently made trips as far as Salem Mills with wheat to exchange for flour.

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### P. J. KELLY.

Among the well-known and prominent farmers and stockmen of Richardson county is P. J. Kelly, the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of prime farming land in the northeast quarter of section 13, Liberty precinct. He was born in Manitowac, Wisconsin, and is the eldest son of Miles and Mary (Hollarn) Kelly.

Miles Kelly was born in County Clare, Ireland, on August 6, 1833, and came to the United States while yet a young man. On arriving in this country he went to Wisconsin and homesteaded a timber claim at Maple Grove. He devoted his labors to the task of clearing the tract and bringing it to tillable condition and effecting improvements calculated to bring satisfactory results. In time his efforts were rewarded and he continued to reside on his homestead tract until 1874, when he came to Richardson county.

Myles Kelly was married in Maple Grove, Wisconsin, to Mary Hollarn and to them were born the following children: P. J., Margaret, who married T. J. Colfer, Atchison, Kansas; Daniel, who lives one mile south of Shubert, this state; Mary, who married S. M. Regen, of Atchison; Katherine, who married William Ryan, and lives in Barada precinct; Martin, who lives on the old homestead in Barada precinct; Daniel, who lives in Barada precinct, and Francis, a graduate of Peru Normal School, Peru, this state, and now teaching at Stella, Nebraska.

Mary Hollarn Kelly was born in Ireland on September 6, 1884, and came with her parents to America. On arriving in this country they went to Wisconsin and settled there on a farm. Mrs. Kelly died on October 5, 1900, aged fifty-six years. Both she and her husband were exemplary members of the Catholic church, in the faith of which their children were also reared.

On coming to Richardson county in 1874, Miles Kelly bought two hundred and twenty acres of land from Ed Towle in Barada township, for which he paid fifteen dollars an acre. This tract was raw prairie and he expended considerable effort and toil to bring it to a state fit for cultivation.

As time went on he made extensive improvements and developed the land profitably, continuing to farm there until his death.

P. J. Kelly, the subject of this sketch, was educated at the Barada precinct district school No. 88. He helped his father on the farm which the latter had bought in Barada precinct, and thus continued for some years, finally buying out the place his father had acquired in 1874. He is now actively engaged in farming and stock raising and is regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in the community.

Mr. Kelly is affiliated with the Democratic party, but has never been an office seeker, his attention being directed to his farming operations. He is a member of the Catholic church and of the Knights of Columbus, in the affairs of which he takes considerable interest. Mr. Kelly is not married.

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### GEORGE GUTZMER.

It is a fine thing to be permitted to spend our lives on the old home place, under the "roof that heard our earliest cry," for there are associations about the hearthstone of our fathers that are not to be found elsewhere; but fate or chance or fortune—call it what you will—shoves most of us out from under our native roof-tree to unfamiliar climes. George Gutzmer, farmer of Humboldt precinct, Richardson county, has been more fortunate and is still living on the farm where he was born, in section 34, on May 22, 1874. He is a son of Daniel and Minnie (Korber) Gutzmer. The father was born in Germany in 1825 and there he spent his boyhood and attended school. He immigrated to the United States when a young man, and he proved his loyalty to his adopted country by serving in the Union army during the Civil War. He came to Richardson county, Nebraska, in the early days and by hard work and close application developed a good farm from the wild prairie, taking up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. The mother of the subject of this sketch was born in Germany in 1837, and her death occurred in 1893. The father died also in 1893.

To Daniel and Minnie Gutzmer three children were born, namely: Mrs. Bertha Schuetz, who lives in Humboldt, Nebraska; Mrs. Minnie Seiler, who makes her home in Franklin precinct, Richardson county, and George, of this sketch.

George Gutzmer grew to manhood on the home farm, where he worked



hard when a boy, as did all boys who happened to live in the West on a farm in the pioneer days, especially if there was but one boy in the family as was the case in the Gutzmer family. Upon the death of his parents in 1893 he bought the shares of his two sisters in the estate and has continued to reside on the homestead, which he has kept under a high state of improvement and cultivation. The farm consists of one hundred and sixty acres and there he carries on general farming and stock raising. He has remained unmarried. Politically, he is a Republican.

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### MAX MEZ.

One of the enterprising farmers of Ohio township, Richardson county, is Max Mez, who was born in Baden, Germany, July 5, 1864. He is a son of Fred and Margaret (Grim) Mez, natives of Germany, where they grew up, married and established their home. The father was born in 1803 and died in 1879, spending his entire life in his native land. He was in the government service during the major portion of his active life, as a game and timber warden. Fred Mez was twice married, Margaret Grim being his second wife. Two children were born to them, namely: Fred, who is still living in Germany, and Max, the subject of this sketch. The mother of these children was born about 1823 and died about 1881.

Max Mez grew to manhood in Germany and there attended the common schools, and when a young man learned the cabinet-maker's trade, which he followed there for a period of eight years. He left his native land in 1838, immigrating to America, and settled in Richardson county, Nebraska. He worked as a farm hand for the Peck boys two years, then bought eighty acres in Ohio precinct, known as the old Sloan farm, which he improved, building a new barn and doing considerable fencing. After operating that place five years he sold out and bought his present excellent farm from B. F. Morgan, and has since been successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, making many important improvements in the place, and has been very successful in his career as a farmer. He landed in Richardson county with only twenty dollars in his pocket and is now owner of one of the choice farms of his locality, consisting of three hundred and twenty acres in section 18, Ohio precinct, also one hundred and sixty acres in Liberty precinct. Mr. Mez has followed a most commendable custom of setting out a large number of fruit and shade trees every year since

coming to this county and now has a fine orchard of about seven acres of an excellent variety of fruit. He raises a large quantity of grain, most of which he feeds to his graded live stock, preparing large numbers for the market annually. He has an attractive home, and numerous substantial and convenient outbuildings; in fact, everything about the place denotes thrift and good management.

Mr. Mez was married on January 3, 1890, to Katherine Werner, a native of Baden, Germany, where she grew to womanhood and attended the public schools. She is a daughter of Jacob and Katherine (Suess) Werner, natives of Germany, where they lived and died. She came to the United States in 1881 and made her home with the family of Henry Weick until her marriage. Eight children have been born to Max Mez and wife, as follow: Fred, who is engaged in farming in Arago precinct, Richardson county; Katherine, the wife of C. Brawn, a farmer in Ohio precinct, and Herman, Henry, Charlie, Anna, Max A. and Benjamin, who are all at home with their parents.

Mr. Mez votes independently. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Lutheran church. He takes a good citizen's interest in local public affairs and is a man of excellent standing in his community.

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#### CHESTER A. FISHER.

Chester A. Fisher, one of the leading merchants of Falls City and head of the firm of Fisher & Sandrock, dealers in groceries, dry goods and women's ready-to-wear goods, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of this county ever since he was eleven years of age, with the exception of three years spent in Colorado. He was born on a farm in Edgar county, Illinois, July 5, 1883, son of George W. and Cynthia (Ross) Fisher, both also natives of the state of Illinois, the former born in Vermillion county and the latter in Edgar county, who came to this county in 1893 and are now living retired at Falls City, where they are very comfortably and very pleasantly situated.

George W. Fisher was born in March, 1846, and grew up in Vermillion county, Illinois, and was married and became a well-to-do farmer and landowner in Edgar county, that state, where he remained until 1893, when he came to Nebraska and bought a tract of two thousand acres of land in



the precinct of Falls City, this county, the land reaching to within one mile of the city, and there he established his home and continued to reside until his retirement from the active duties of the farm in 1910 and removal to Falls City, where he and his wife are now living. Besides his extensive land interests in this county, Mr. Fisher is the owner of a fine farm of six hundred acres in Illinois. He and his wife are the parents of nine children, all of whom are living and of whom the subject of this sketch is the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Ethel, wife of Doctor Hahn, of Falls City; May, wife of George Branimum, of Oswego, Kansas; Nora, wife of Joseph Davison, a farmer living southwest of Falls City; Mrs. Grace Strong, of Strausville, this county; Lester, a retired farmer, who lives east of Falls City; Goldia, wife of George Sandrock, partner of Chester A. Fisher in the mercantile business at Falls City; Ota, wife of George Prichard, of Abilene, Kansas, and Lula, at home with her parents.

As noted above, Chester A. Fisher was eleven years of age when he came to this county with his parents from Illinois in 1893 and he completed his schooling in the public schools of this county and supplemented the same by a course in the Falls City Business College. Upon attaining his majority he received from his father a tract of four hundred and eighty acres of land in southeastern Kansas and after his marriage a short time later he made his home on that place, but two years later, in 1907, returned to Falls City and there engaged in the mercantile business and was thus engaged until 1909, in which year he disposed of his business and went to Colorado, where he bought two hundred and ten acres of land and was there engaged in farming for about three years, at the end of which time, in 1912, he again returned to Falls City and resumed his mercantile business there and has ever since been thus engaged, having built up a quite extensive business. On December 1, 1916, he admitted to partnership with him in that business his brother-in-law, George Sandrock, and since then the business has been conducted under the firm name of Fisher & Sandrock. This firm has a well-stocked store and does a fine business in the general groceries, dry goods and women's ready-to-wear line, the establishment being regarded as one of the best-appointed establishments of its kind in this part of the state. In addition to his extensive commercial interests Mr. Fisher is the owner of six hundred and ten acres of land in Kansas and Colorado and is quite well circumstanced.

On May 22, 1905, Chester A. Fisher was united in marriage, at Falls City, to Hattie Pearl Cleveland, of that city, who was born in the Dominion of Canada, daughter of George S. and Amelia (Cotzere) Cleveland, also

natives of Canada, who came to this state years ago and settled at Falls City, where George S. Cleveland was engaged in the mercantile business until 1910 when he went West to farm and is now living at Olathe, Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher have a very pleasant home at Falls City and take a proper interest in the general social affairs of their home town. They have four children, George S., born in 1906; Suzaine, 1908; Elinne, 1910, and Mildred, 1914. Mr. Fisher is a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and takes an active interest in the affairs of the same.

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### MARTIN B. ATKINS.

Among the successful self-made men who have honored Richardson county with their residence, is Martin B. Atkins, a pioneer agriculturist and stockman, who is now a wholesale gasoline and oil merchant of Lincoln. Being ambitious from the first, but surrounded with none too favorable environment, his early youth was not especially promising, but resolutely facing the future, he gradually surmounted the difficulties in his way and has risen to a prominent position in industrial circles in eastern Nebraska.

Mr. Atkins was born in Bureau county, Illinois, April 27, 1850. He is a son of Jesse and Amelia (Watson) Atkins, natives of Indiana and Kentucky, respectively, the father's birth having occurred near the city of Terre Haute in 1812. He devoted his active life to farming and died in Bureau county, Illinois, in 1861. The mother of the subject of this sketch was born in 1811 on the northern border of the old Blue Grass state, and she died in 1863. To these parents thirteen children were born, of whom Martin B. was the eleventh in order of birth. Only three others are living at this writing, namely: Francis M., who makes his home at Princeton, Illinois; Mrs. Laura McConnell, who lives in Humboldt, this county, and Adolphus W., who lives in Marion, Iowa.

Martin B. Atkins and all his brothers and sisters were born on the home farm in Bureau county, Illinois, and there he was reared. He had little opportunity to obtain an education, spending only sixteen weeks at a select school taught by Professor Bangs, but nevertheless he attributes his success in life to the inspiration he received from this early-day schoolmaster. Mr. Atkins has made his own way in the world since he was eleven years old. As a boy he learned the cabinet-maker's trade and worked at the same



at Peru and Dover, Illinois, until 1873, when, having been attracted to the possibilities of ranching in the new state of Nebraska he took up his journey "toward the setting sun," arriving at the village of Humboldt, in Richardson county, on April 11 of that year. He turned his attention to farming and bought land in Franklin precinct, when settlers were few and trading centers far remote. He endured the usual hardships and privations incident to life on the western frontier at that period. He went through the famine of the famous grasshopper years. He developed his land from the raw state, breaking up the prairie sod and gradually bringing his land under a good state of cultivation and improvement. He cut grain for his neighbors the first year there, using an old-fashioned header, with which he cut sixteen hundred acres. There was not a dwelling in sight when he built his first house on the wild prairie. After farming his land three years he moved to Humboldt and engaged in the restaurant business two years; then, in 1878, he took up the furniture business, in connection with which he did an undertaking business. He attended the first state convention of undertakers, being now the only survivor of that convention in Nebraska. It was held in Lincoln in 1880. He moved from Humboldt to York, this state, where he engaged in the furniture and undertaking business for a period of twenty-five years. He then bought and sold live stock for eleven years, becoming one of the most extensive feeders and shippers in the state. During that period he shipped forty thousand head of cattle to the market, buying the stock in Montana, in which state he spent five months out of each year. He became well known to the ranchmen and stockmen of that state. He is an excellent judge of live stock, especially cattle, and was very successful in this field of endeavor. About 1890 he became interested in the Farmers' Mutual Association, which he helped to build up to a state of efficiency, and in 1908 he was elected secretary of the same. About this time he moved to the city of Lincoln. He was interested in the automobile business a short time. He has sold out his former business interests.

In 1915 Mr. Atkins began handling gas and oil from the refineries at Tulsa, Oklahoma, and other oil fields, under the firm name of A. B. C. Independent Oil and Gas Company, the company being composed of himself, his son, Arthur E., and his son-in-law, O. A. Barber, the firm operating gas and oil plants at Sidney, Gurley, Kearney and Raymond, Nebraska. Mr. Atkins understands every phase of the oil and gas business and is one of the best-known men in this field in Nebraska. He is also owner of valuable city property in Lincoln, as well as fine farming land in South

Dakota and Dudley county, Nebraska, his holdings totaling an entire section. He has been very successful in a business way, being a man of sound judgment, executive ability and foresight.

Mr. Atkins was married at the old Union Hotel in Falls City, Nebraska, April 24, 1873, to Lucy Barnhart, a native of Lee county, Illinois, and a daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Kuntz) Barnhardt, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Ohio, who were early settlers of Linn county, Iowa. Mrs. Atkins came to Richardson county, Nebraska, November 25, 1872, and lived with her sister and brother-in-law, Henry Stewart, a farmer of Franklin precinct. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Atkins, namely: Arthur E., who is engaged in the oil and gas business at Kearney, Nebraska; and Iva, wife of O. A. Barber, of Lincoln, who is associated with the subject of this sketch in the oil and gas business.

Mr. Atkins is a member of the Presbyterian church. Besides winning the confidence and esteem of those with whom he has come in contact in a business and social way, he is regarded as a man of public spirit, having the best interests of his city and state at heart.

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#### PAUL B. WEAVER.

In this progressive twentieth century, which we often refer to as an age of specialists, it is a somewhat rare thing to find a man who has the talent to succeed at a variety of callings. One of the most conspicuous examples of this class of men in Richardson county is Paul B. Weaver, attorney, horticulturist, fruit grower and farmer of Falls City, a man who has succeeded at whatever he has seriously turned his attention to. He was born in the above named city on November 19, 1878, in the old Weaver homestead. He is a scion of one of the influential early families of this locality, being a son of Judge A. J. and Martha (Weaver) Weaver, both now deceased. The reader is referred to a full sketch of these parents which appears on another page of this volume.

Paul B. Weaver grew to manhood in Falls City, where he attended the public and high schools, graduating from the latter with the class of 1896. He then entered the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he made an excellent record in the academic and law departments, graduating in 1902, and receiving the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws. Soon after leaving the university he began the active practice of his profession at



Cordell, Oklahoma, where he remained three years, enjoying a good business. In 1905 he returned to Falls City, where he continued in his profession for three years, during which he took a high rank at the local bar and was known as an energetic, painstaking and trustworthy lawyer, well versed in the various phases of jurisprudence and he was successful in the general practice of the law. But finding the science of agriculture more attractive than a professional career he gave up active practice and engaged in farming and fruit growing, in partnership with his brother, A. J. Weaver. He has made a close and careful study of modern methods of scientific agriculture and horticulture and has succeeded from the start, being now regarded as one of the best intensive farmers in Richardson county, owning a valuable and highly improved fruit farm of eighty acres adjoining Falls City on the east. He also owns a productive farm of two hundred acres southwest of town, a part of which is also in fruit. He is farming twelve hundred acres in all, and thus is carrying on general farming operations on a vast scale. Mr. Weaver has the specific care of the orchards, in which he employs the most approved methods of spraying, pruning and general orchard culture. He secures large annual yields and the exceptionally fine apples from his orchards find a ready market over a large territory. Besides his fruit growing he farms eight hundred acres in Richardson county and raises large herds of cattle and hogs, about one thousand head of the latter annually, and one hundred head of fine cattle are grown on the place each year. He buys stockers and feeders and ships one hundred head to market annually. He employs from forty to fifty men continually on his farms, his farm buildings are up-to-date in arrangement and equipment, and everything is managed under a superb system, showing that Mr. Weaver is a man of rare executive ability as well as of industry.

On August 30, 1900, Mr. Weaver was married to Anna L. Cook, a daughter of G. A. Cook, a native of Tennessee and an early settler in Missouri, who came to Nebraska in 1855 and became well known to the pioneer element of Richardson county and was prominent in the affairs of his locality. Mr. Cook was for some time clerk of the district court and also served as postmaster at Falls City. Mrs. Weaver grew to womanhood at Falls City and received good educational advantages. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Weaver, namely: Paul Bennett, Archibald Jackson, Martha Katherine, Mary Anne, Lawrence Madison, Christobel and Doris.

Politically, Mr. Weaver is a Republican, but while he is deeply interested in public affairs in general, especially as pertaining to his city and

county, he has never sought political leadership, preferring to devote his attention to his large business interests. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Personally, he is a pleasant gentleman to meet, genial, companionable and obliging, and his reputation has always been that of a man with a high sense of honor in all the relations of life.

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### GUST. ZIMMERMANN.

Gust. Zimmermann, proprietor of a well-improved farm of forty acres in section 28 of the precinct of Arago, this county, was born on a pioneer farm adjoining that tract and has lived there all his life. He was born on March 19, 1882, son of Louis and Mollie Almira (Reschke) Zimmermann, pioneers of that community and the former of whom is still living, now a resident of Falls City, this county. Louis Zimmermann is of European birth, a native of the grand duchy of Baden, born in February, 1852, who came to this country as a young man and became a pioneer of Richardson county. After renting land in Arago precinct for some time he bought a farm of eighty acres there and made his home there until his retirement from the farm and removed to Falls City, where he is now living and where his wife died in September, 1916, at the age of seventy-two years. They were the parents of eight children, of whom four are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Godfrey, who is farming with his brother Gust.; Ernest, also a farmer of Arago precinct and a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and Emma, wife of P. Baker, also a farmer of the precinct of Arago.

Reared on the home farm in Arago precinct, Gust. Zimmermann received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant in the labors of the farm. When twenty-one years of age he began farming on his own account, renting land from his father and in time bought the "eighty" on which he is now living, adjoining the home place on the west, and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. Zimmermann has made substantial improvements on his place and is carrying on his farming operations in up-to-date fashion. He is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been particularly active as a party worker.

On October 6, 1910, Gust. Zimmerman was united in marriage to Ella



Zimmermann, who was born in Atchison county, Missouri, and to this union has been born one child, a daughter, Rosella. Mr. and Mrs. Zimmermann are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church work and in other neighborhood good works.

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### FRED BRECHT.

Fred Brecht, manager of the extensive plant of the Heacock Milling Company of Falls City, former member of the city council and present secretary of the school board of that city, is a native son of Richardson county, a member of one of the real "old-time" families, and has lived here all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm three and one-half miles northeast of Falls City on October 30, 1869, son of Carl and Susan (Hadley) Brecht, natives of Germany, who were married in Buffalo, New York, later lived in Canada and came thence to Nebraska in 1867, settling in this county, where their last days were spent, honored and useful pioneers.

Carl Brecht was born in 1826 and grew to manhood in his native Germany, coming thence to the United States and locating at Buffalo, New York, where he became employed and where he presently married Susan Hadley, who also was born in Germany, in 1836, and who had come to America with her parents in the days of her girlhood. After his marriage Mr. Brecht established his home in Canada and there continued to reside until 1867, when he came to Nebraska with his family and in the fall of that year bought a tract of one hundred and thirty acres of land three and one-half miles northeast of the then small village of Falls City, where he established his home and where he spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Brecht was a good farmer and as he prospered in his undertaking added an adjoining "eighty" to his homestead place and soon had one of the best-improved and most profitably cultivated farms in that neighborhood. For his original tract he paid three dollars and fifty cents an acre and before his death ten years later the place had increased many fold in value. Carl Brecht died on December 23, 1877, at the age of fifty-one years. His widow survived him until January, 1904, she being sixty-eight years of age at the time of her death. They were the parents of eight children, five sons and three daughters, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Charles, who died in 1912; Conrad, of Falls City; Mrs. Caroline Fenskae, who is living in northern

Nebraska; Henry, a farmer, living a mile and a half east of Falls City; Mrs. Katie Kruse, of Falls City; Peter, also of Falls City, and Mrs. Elizabeth Schmechel, who is living in northern Nebraska.

Fred Brecht was reared on the old home farm where he was born, and upon completing the course in the common schools entered a business college at St. Louis and there became thoroughly grounded in business forms. In 1896 he was made assistant manager in the office of the Heacock Milling Company and has since occupied that position, manager of the plant in the absence of Mr. Heacock, and is therefore one of the best-known millers in this part of the state. Besides his milling interests, Mr. Brecht is the owner of a quarter of a section of land in central Kansas and also has valuable real estate in Falls City. He is a Bryan Democrat and has long given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs. For one term he rendered valuable service to his home city as a member of the city council and for the past ten years has been secretary of the school board, in which latter capacity he has done much to advance the interests of the city schools. In other ways Mr. Brecht has done his part in the promotion of the city's best interests and has long been regarded as one of Falls City's most energetic and public-spirited citizens.

On April 28, 1898, Fred Brecht was united in marriage to Marie Fussner, of Atchison, Kansas, who was born in Germany and who had lived in Paris with an aunt, who was the wife of a French army officer, and also in the city of London, before coming to the United States, and who therefore has a fluent use of the French, German and English languages. To this union two daughters have been born, Susanie, who was born on February 18, 1899, and who was graduated from the Falls City high school with the class of 1917, and Nellie Lee, February 25, 1908. The Brechts are members of the Presbyterian church and take a proper interest in church work, as well as in the general good works of their home town and in the social and cultural activities of the same. Mr. Brecht is a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Royal Highlanders and in the affairs of these organizations takes a warm interest. Having been born in this county he has been a witness to the development of this region from pioneer days and has done his part in advancing that development, ever interested in movements designed to promote the general welfare of the community.

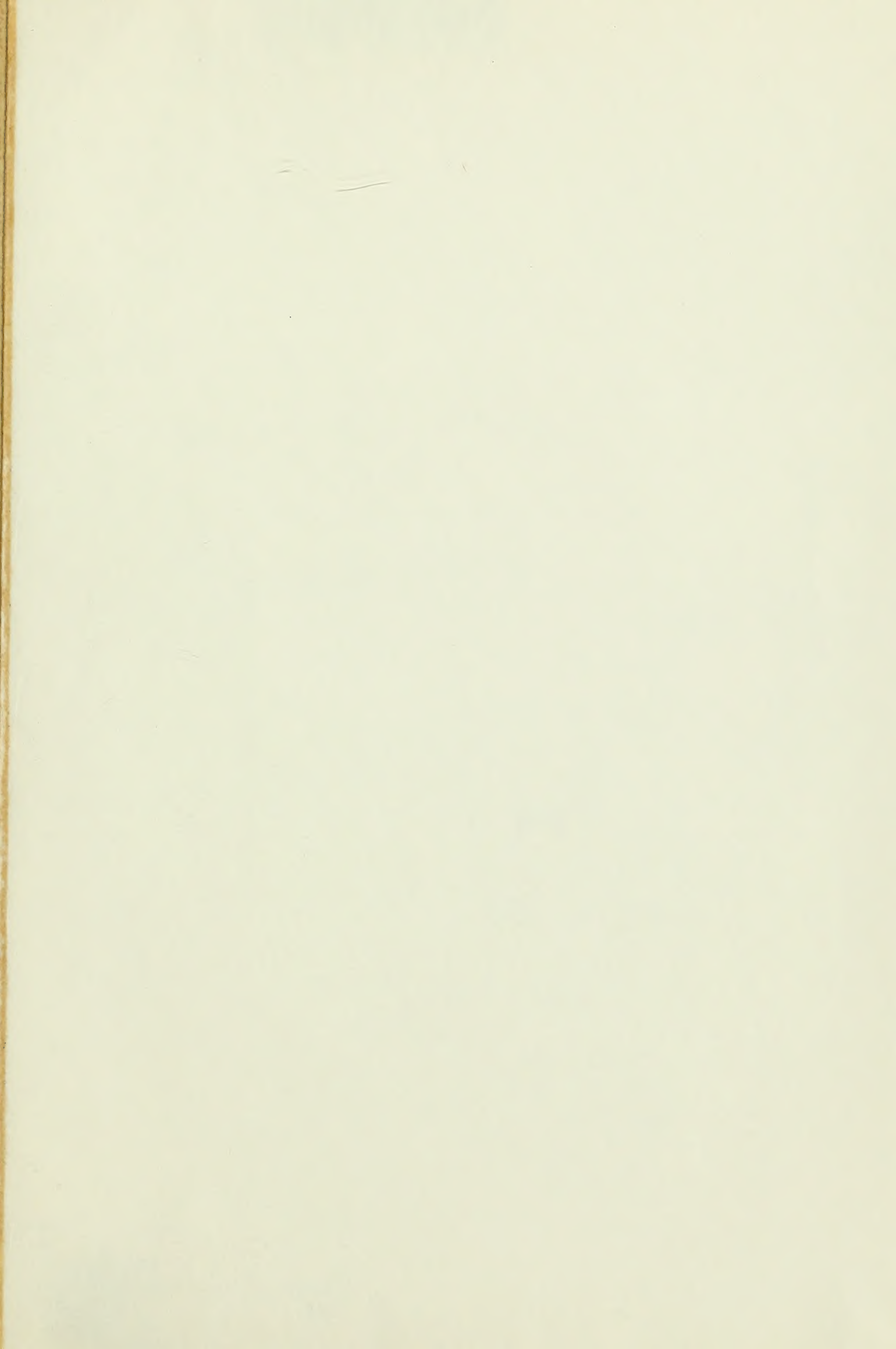














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